



East Suffolk  
**Community  
Partnerships**

Aldeburgh  
Leiston  
Saxmundham  
& villages

## **Action Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29 October 2025 at Live Well Hub, Leiston**

Core Membership: Katie Graham (Chair) (East Suffolk Council), Coral Duncan (Benhall and Sternfield Parish Council), Lauren Gilbert (Community Action Suffolk), Lesley Hill (Leiston Town Council), Russ Rainger (Snape Parish Council), Sharon Cuthbert (Leiston Good Neighbours Scheme), Stuart Watson (Cyds), Bryony Peall (Live Well Hub),

Others present: Beth Dwerryhouse (Communities Officer, East Suffolk Council), Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities, East Suffolk Council), Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer, East Suffolk Council), Victoria Cooke (The Art Station), Maxine Clements (The Art Station)

Apologies: Maureen Jones, Stuart Halsey

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Action Notes</b>  There were no outstanding actions and the action notes of the meeting held on 27 August were agreed.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Updates</b>  Nicole Rickard (NR) updated on the Community Partnership Board. The last meeting was at the beginning of October and had focussed on transport. There had been discussions about how people could access activities that are already happening, and a project proposal would be coming forward to set up an enabling fund to do this. Marmot place programme was now starting and would be launched at the end of November, a presentation on this would be received at a future meeting of this partnership. A grants scheme was also being set up for projects to improve mental health and wellbeing.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Community Cohesion Priority</b>

	<p>There was discussion on what a priority around community cohesion would look like.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events to bring people together</li> <li>• Highlighting clubs and societies to existing residents and new residents</li> <li>• Filling gaps in existing provision</li> <li>• There was discussion about the recent gaming festival in Lowestoft and how this had brought communities together</li> <li>• Need for better communications of existing projects – newsletters and social media</li> <li>• Community festivals and community events</li> <li>• Need to encourage intergenerational activities</li> <li>• Saxmundham Community Fridge shared as a good example of community cohesion</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome Proposals</b></p> <p><b>Inside Out – the Art Station (£5,000)</b>  Victoria Cooke and Maxine Clements introduced the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yoga project to help teach self-regulation and calming techniques to young people. Using a providers who already works with the schools in the area.</li> <li>• Would cover years four to six, mainly through afterschool clubs which children would be able to attend for free. Sessions focussing on SATS would be during the school day.</li> <li>• There was an increase in children starting at schools who aren't able to self-regulate and calm themselves due to increasing use of technology and social media.</li> <li>• Provides tools for children to manage their anxiety around exams and life skills on managing anxiety.</li> <li>• There would be funding for an extra term and any schools that benefitted would be offered this extra term.</li> </ul> <p>The partnership raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to signpost people where/how they can continue this when the programme stops at their school.</li> <li>• It was hoped that schools would see this as positive and choose to continue it.</li> <li>• There is a general need for free afterschool clubs for parents who work.</li> </ul> <p>The funding was AGREED</p> <p><b>Rural Mobile Hub (£5000)</b>  Beth Dwerryhouse introduced the project.</p>

- ESC has funded a van which goes to villages to provide advice and a small mobile pantry.
- This funding would be for Citizens Advice to provide staffing for an advisor and a driver/coordinator.
- Would be in villages once a fortnight, visiting approximately three villages each day.
- This was a joint proposal with the other rural CP areas.
- Would also provide space for other services such as health advisors, libraries, community officers, feel good Suffolk, community help hub. This would be timetabled in and advertised.

The partnership raised the following points:

- Need to ensure people know its coming – work with rural coffee caravan to promote or to follow the rural coffee caravan.
- Needs to be more than just citizens advice and provide more than just their advice.
- Need to speak to groups that run similar services to see the best way to set it up.

The funding was AGREED

### **Saxon Road Allotment Garden Project (5000)**

Beth Dwerryhouse introduced the project.

- This proposal had been received as part of a grant scheme. It hadn't fit the criteria of the grants scheme, but it was felt it was appropriate to bring to the CP for funding.
- Used land from a housing development and was also supported by workers from Sizewell C to clear the land. They had also applied for funding from other groups for communal sheds.
- There was demand for additional allotment spaces in Saxmundham. Would prioritise those living closest and those in accommodation without outside spaces.

The partnership raised the following points:

- There were questions about whether there was a need for additional allotments as there were some empty allotments behind the Fromus Centre.
- There were also questions about how many and much space would be available as this was a small piece of land.

ACTION: BD would feed these points back to the Town Council for more information.

### **Community Cohesion**

The group agreed to add a third priority for community cohesion, and create a £10,000 grant scheme on this priority.

	It was agreed that grants would be for up to £2,500 as this would allow pilot schemes to be set up.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>  21st January, Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh

The meeting concluded at 16.45