



Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 17 March 2021 via Zoom

Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Councillor Tony Cooper (Chairman), Councillor John Fisher

SCC Councillors – Councillor Russ Rainger

Town and Parish Councils – Heather Brewell (Knodishall Parish Council), Councillor Julian Cusack (Middleton Parish Council), Councillor Marianne Fellowes (Aldeburgh Town Council)

Partnership Organisations – Sharon Cuthbert (Leiston Good Neighbour Scheme), Sarah Mortimer (Community Action Suffolk), Caroline Rinder (Leiston Town Council), Cllr Mary Schedrin (Friston Parish Council), Joanne Thain (ESC Leiston Change Manager)

Others present – Katherine Abbott (Democratic Services Officer), Zoe Botten (Communities Officer), Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities)

Item	Discussion
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T-J Haworth-Culf, Councillor Jocelyn Bond, Councillor Stephen Brett (Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Councils), Di Eastman (IP17 Good Neighbour Scheme) and, Councillor Lesley Hill (Leiston Town Council)</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Russ Rainger would be standing down as the County Councillor and so would continue to participate in the Partnership as the Vice Chairman of Snape Parish Council.</p>
2.	<p>Notes of the meeting of the Community Partnership held 11 January 2021</p> <p>The notes were received and agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>It was noted that Caroline Rinder was now Town Clerk for Leiston Town Council, but the change of role was not known at the January meeting, so the notes were correct to refer to her, then, as Deputy Clerk.</p>



<p>3.</p>	<p>Written update from the Community Partnership Board held on 1 March 2021</p> <p>The Chairman summarised the update paper which had been published with the agenda and provided the key outcomes from the Board meeting held in early March.</p> <p>There were no questions on the contents of the paper which was noted.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Verbal update on the Community Partnership Grant Scheme</p> <p>Zoe Botten, the Communities Officer, provided a short verbal update for the information of the Partnership.</p> <p>The Partnership was advised that five applications had been received; two had been successful whilst three had not met the required criteria. The two successful applicants were the Leiston Swimming Club (c£700) and the Friends of Aldeburgh Library (c£900). This left c£3500 to be carried over into the 2021/22 Grant Scheme. The Partnership was further informed that, if it so wished, this could be 'topped up' to £5,000.</p> <p>Zoe Botten informed the Partnership that the Grants Scheme would be opened again and asked members to encourage applications from small local projects.</p> <p>The verbal update was noted.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Aldeburgh and Blyth Community Radio Project - Application</p> <p>Before considering the application, the Chairman wished to advise the Partnership that he, Councillor Bond and Councillor Haworth-Culf had given funds to the project from their individual Enabling Communities Budgets (ECBs). It had been clarified that the original vision had always been that Councillors could align ECBs to their Community Partnership priorities (given that the latter were data led and chosen by community representatives) but for good practice Councillor Cooper wished to advise the Partnership. Councillor Rainger said he too had given the project funding from his community budget.</p> <p>Councillor Fellowes said that Aldeburgh Town Council and Leiston Town Council had also given the project funds. She questioned whether it was fair or appropriate for an application for further funding to come to the Partnership too. The Chairman said that this might be a matter for the Community</p>



	<p>Partnership Board to consider, in terms of the criteria for applications to meet, but, for now, the Monitoring Officer had confirmed that the application was acceptable and, if so decided, so was additional grant funding.</p> <p>Joanne Thain was invited to present the application. The Chairman invited questions and comments.</p> <p>Sarah Mortimer said that whilst young people were perhaps not the primary target audience of the project, anything that would help to facilitate greater engagement would be very welcome. Joanne Thain said the project was keen to include young people and utilise social media to encourage their engagement. Sarah Mortimer also urged the Partnership to ensure that the project, if funding was agreed, was asked to avoid the digital exclusion of the elderly; Joanne Thain said the project planned to obtain an FM licence within 18 months.</p> <p>Councillor Cusack asked for more details on the Project Lead and if the Group was a limited company and had a Constitution. Joanne Thain outlined the Project Lead’s experience and confirmed that the Group was a Community Interest Company.</p> <p>Councillor Fellowes, with reference to the earlier discussion about other funding which had been obtained by the project, outlined the £14,861 which had already been obtained from various sources and to the £7143 now applied for. She questioned the principle behind this approach. Joanne Thain said the project had advised the application was for monies to cover all the costs arising from the launch. She added that the project had stated it was sustainable.</p> <p>In response to a query about whether there was sufficient confidence to agree the application, the Head of Communities said this must be the decision of the Partnership having considered if the project was value for money. She added that match-funding by Councillors of projects supported by other Community Partnerships had occurred and so there was a precedence.</p> <p>ACTION: The application for funding was approved, unanimously, for a grant of £4,726 in total.</p>
6.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The suggested date of Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 3.30pm was agreed.</p>
7.	<p>Any other business</p>



It was agreed that the following would be brought to a future meeting within the next six months:

- Partnership members to suggest items for the agenda that meet the three agreed priorities
- Sharon Cuthbert to provide an update on the Task and Finish Group, to include which organisations are being worked with. The TFG to map any gaps
- Events for well-being and mental health around the benefits of nature
- How best to engage with SALC at board level to try and increase awareness of the Community Partnerships and seek support for projects

The meeting concluded at 4.30 pm