

Welcome to our February Newsletter
Our aim at keeping all residents informed about the current key issues and achievements of East Suffolk Council

This month we are updating you on the Community Partnerships.
What is community Partnership? Eight Community Partnerships covering the whole of East Suffolk.

Ambitions of Community Partnerships as the place to do place-based partnership work.

Established a programme of activity to address the data-led priorities identified at individual CP level in late 2019.



Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 15 December via Zoom

Core Membership:

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

SCC Councillors – Councillor T-J Haworth-Culf

Town and Parish Councils – Roz Barnett (Saxmundham Town Council), Councillor Julian Cusack (Middleton Parish Council), Sharon Cuthbert (Leiston Good Neighbour Scheme), Councillor Lesley Hill (Leiston Town Council), Councillor Paul Richards (Snape Parish Council), Caroline Rinder (Leiston Town Council)

Partnership Organisations – Di Eastman (IP17 Good Neighbour Scheme), Melissa Geater (Vice Chair, Avocet Academy), Sarah Mortimer (Community Action Suffolk)

Others present – Zoe Botten (Communities Officer), Helen Greengrass, Fiona McMillan (Youth Sport Trust), Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities), Julie Stokes (ActivLives), Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer)

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tom Daly (East Suffolk Council), and Councillor Mary Schedrin (Friston Parish Council),

Notes of the Meetings of the Community Partnership

The unconfirmed action notes of the meetings held on 29 September 2021 were agreed.

Alli Stone (AS) confirmed that the cycling and walking strategy consultation would close on 10th January and encourage members to submit their own feedback and share the strategy with their groups.

Update from the Community Partnership Board held on 6 December 2021

The Community Partnership received an update on the last meeting of the Community Partnership Board from Nicole Rickard (NR).

NR provided an overview of the following points discussed at that meeting:

- A presentation from Suffolk MIND on the impact of Covid-19 on mental health locally
- A new mental health and wellbeing task and finish group to address the ongoing issues around mental health and Covid-19
- Board priorities reviewed to include social isolation and loneliness; sustainable transport and travel; and mental health and wellbeing
- A new workstream on vulnerability and hidden needs due to emerging issues on cost of living and living standards
- The Peer Review of Community Partnerships

The Community Partnership forum event was planned for 25 March 2022 at Trinity Park.

Applications for funding

Leiston Primary School Early Minds Project

Melissa Geater (MG) summarised the project proposal from Leiston Primary School. The project aimed to support pupils through the continuing impact of the pandemic, with training and support from Suffolk MIND. The project would provide:

- Lessons for whole classes to discuss mental health
- Workshop and Q&A session for staff
- Resources for years three to six
- Parent Q&A session (either virtually or in person)
- Follow up reports six weeks, eight weeks and six months later to determine the impact of the work.

Project costs were confirmed as £2,007.

The Partnership discussed the project and raised the following points:

- Sharing project outcomes and good practise with other schools in the area.
- Reports being shared with the CP Board mental health task and finish group.
- The projects compatibility with the Partnerships aims.
- Engagement with parents and home-schooled children.

On the proposition of Cllr Lesley Hill, seconded by Di Eastman it was unanimously agreed to fund the project.

ACTION - £2,007 be allocated to the Leiston Primary School Early Minds Project.

ActivLives - ActivCommunities

Julie Stokes (JS) introduced the proposal which was to employ an ActivLives 'Activator' post, who would work to engage people aged 50 to:

- help reduce social isolation
- provide activities to improve physical and mental well-being
- build support networks

Another CP was interested in similar work, and it would be possible to have a bigger project across a wider area.

The Partnership discussed the project and raised the following points:

- How smaller villages and rural areas could be reached by the project, JS confirmed that the project would include these areas.
- Transport options to bring people from rural areas to groups, this had been difficult for groups in the area and was being discussed by the CP Board.
- Whether the project would receive referrals from social prescribing programmes. JS confirmed it would.

Cllr TJ Haworth Culf reminded JS that Councillors would be happy to promote any events through ward reports and other channels to ensure details were shared in smaller villages and rural areas.

ZB suggested that considering issues around transport and rural areas, a task and finish group should be set up to ensure that all the details and measures were in place to support this project.

The meeting agreed the project in principle subject to details being confirmed with a task and finish group to consider transport issues and the possibility of running the project across multiple CP areas.

ACTION – ZB to organise a task and finish group on transport for community groups

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Consideration of the Community Partnership's Projects

Healthy Movers

Fiona McMillan (FM) from the Youth Sport Trust summarised the healthy movers programme, which provided training to early years practitioners with the aim of developing physical literacy in early years, developing self-esteem and wellbeing and helping children gain a better start in life.

The project had been rolled out in other areas of Suffolk, with positive feedback particularly on the way it was perceived as a fun activity rather than exercise which often had negative perceptions.

The Partnership discussed the project and raised the following points:

- How groups could sign up to the project. ZB confirmed that it would be rolled out to 8-10 settings initially, which were identified by partners depending on need.
- Options for match funding from Suffolk County Council.
- How smaller groups (such as childminders) could become involved.

The Community Partnership agreed that a firm proposal with figures be brought to the next meeting.

ACTION – FM and ZB to bring a proposal for this project to the next CP meeting.

Talking Benches

ZB summarised the talking benches proposal. £1500 had been allocated to the partnership, which would fund around 4-5 benches. The Partnership could match funding to provide an additional 4-5 benches in the area.

The Partnership discussed the project and raised the following points:

- The most appropriate sites for benches, ensuring they were not too isolated.
- The proposed signage, ZB confirmed this did not have to be used.
- Friendship benches at the primary school, which were popular with children.
- Siting of benches on footpaths and walking routes where people stopped and chatted
- Whether some benches could be reserved for rural parishes, the chair confirmed that funding would be extended as necessary to ensure all areas could have a bench.

Partnership agreed to match funding for benches and send letter to town and parishes to confirm funding required.

Action - £1500 to be provided for Talking Benches project, and a letter sent to Town and Parishes Councils to gauge interest.

2022 Community Partnership Priorities.

The Chair was pleased with the opportunities that had come up within the meeting that would provide a focus for the next year.

Councillor Julian Cusack asked whether ESC had any plans for fuel poverty and whether this should be considered by the CP.

NR responded that there was a task and finish group that had been set up by the CP board to consider food and fuel poverty across the district. County Council schemes were being promoted and there was a document available which set out all the sources of help available which was used by partner schemes, and ESC and CAB made referrals to schemes. The Council had also lobbied on payments for heating oil.

ACTION – Details of fuel support schemes to be sent to Community Partnership.

Best regards;

Cllr Tony Cooper,
Aldeburgh Leiston Ward East Suffolk Council
(Tony is a member of Leiston cum Sizewell Town Council).
tony.cooper@eastssuffolk.gov.uk / tele. 01728 830181 or 07884054882

Cllr Russ Rainger
Aldeburgh Leiston Ward East Suffolk Council
(Russ is a member of Snape Parish Council).
Russ.Rainger@eastssuffolk.gov.uk / tele. 07825720522

Cllr Tom Daly
Aldeburgh Leiston Ward East Suffolk Council
Tom.daly@eastssuffolk.gov.uk