

Lowestoft Place Board – Agenda

Tuesday 19th January 2021, 10:00-12:00 | Virtual



Attendees (Board)	Apologies (Board)
Stephen Javes – Chair Amanda Ankin – Suffolk Chamber Andrew Brown (representing Karen Barclay) - Anglian Water (& BiTC) Andrew Clarke – Associated British Ports Anne Rawstron – Department of Work and Pensions Cllr Ben Falat – Parish Councils representative Cllr Craig Rivett – East Suffolk Council Cllr Keith Patience – Lowestoft Town Council Cllr Nick Gowerley – Suffolk County Council Danny Steel - Lowestoft Community Forum/Lowestoft Vision David Carlin – CEFAS Genevieve Christie – FlipSide Hayley Mace – New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Keith Moore – Environment Agency Peter Aldous – MP Phil Aves – Lowestoft Rising Steve Hodger – Scottish Power Renewables Stuart Rimmer – East Coast College Tom Duit - Associated British Ports	Cllr Paul Ashdown - Lowestoft Community Forum Colin Davies – Marks and Spencer Emma Butler Smith – Marina Theatre Karen Barclay – Anglian Water (& BiTC) Paul Ager – Associated British Ports
Attendees (Officers/Speakers)	Apologies (Officers)
Andrew Jarvis – East Suffolk Council Emma Bloom – East Suffolk Council Gary Bellward - East Suffolk Council Jason Benham – BiTC Karen Staples – East Suffolk Council Kerry Blair – East Suffolk Council Mark Ash – Suffolk County Council Nicole Rickard – East Suffolk Council Paul Wood – East Suffolk Council Philip Ridley – East Suffolk Council Sarah Foote – Lowestoft Town Council	Bryn Griffiths – Suffolk County Council Phil Harris – East Suffolk Council Shân Lloyd - Cities & Local Growth Unit

	Description	Lead
1	Welcome and approval of previous meeting minutes	Stephen Javes
2	Declarations of interest None noted	Stephen Javes
2	Comments and actions from previous meeting Chair asked board if there were any comments regarding the last minutes – no comments received, and minutes subsequently signed off.	Stephen Javes
3	COVID-19 update Paul Wood – Grants and Business Support Update Grants programme – the previous grants round in the first and second lockdowns saw ESC issue in excess of £66m to 5800 businesses. The latest lockdown has seen us issue an additional £4.5m to 3,300, with another £14m anticipated to be distributed next week. To make pay-outs easier, payments are now automated.	Paul Wood Nicole Rickard Phil Aves

	<p>ESC is focussing on developing and supporting digital accessibility, business start-ups, and tourism which align with our economic growth strategy. This is further supported by ESC looking at making other grants available for the hospitality sector. To note though, existing Economic Development and Regeneration programmes are well placed to support COVID-19 recovery and economic growth. We are also exploring new programme areas such as a hydrogen economy.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Peter Aldous – Peter advised he has had a business contact him who hasn't automatically received a grant and wondered why this might be? Paul suggested that Peter passes the details to us to look at on his behalf.</p> <p>Stuart Rimmer – how effective have the grants been? Paul advised the grants have mainly supported survival and have allowed the businesses to retain employees, apprenticeships and younger members of staff.</p> <p>Nicole Rickard – Communities Update</p> <p>Since Tier 4 was announced, the Communities team have been contacting people who have been added to the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable list since November to advise of the support available. Under the Home but Not Alone service, the team started calling those most at risk before New Years eve to offer community support to those who might require food shopping, prescription services – 180 people who require this service live in Lowestoft, and have received 48 referrals since Boxing Day.</p> <p>ESC has taken over the Track and Trace support for those who are in isolation for 10 days, to ensure that they have the support they need, and that any care responsibilities are covered.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Community Fund is still open to provide financial support to community groups who are helping vulnerable people in their homes.</p> <p>East Suffolk now have 90 Grandpads in the community to help elderly residents stay in touch with friends and family, arrange online food shopping, and address social isolation. Further to this, ESC have created 3 new positions within the Communities team to support and coordinate COVID-19 related activities. We have also been working with the Community Transport providers to support journeys to the COVID-19 vaccination hubs.</p> <p>Phil Aves – Lowestoft Rising Update</p> <p>Homelessness within the community remains low with 2 people living on the street. The 7 bed higher needs support unit is progressing, which will provide the most vulnerable with specialist support.</p> <p>The Food Bank is well stocked, and has been opening 3 days per week from the new premises on Bevan Street, and on a Saturday in Kessingland. The Community Pantry is based at Kirkley Church Hall. Both the Pantry and Food Network are functioning well, receiving donations from shops to support charities including the Salvation Army.</p>	
4	<p>Strategic Community Partnership update</p> <p><i>Note to Board: It was thought it would be useful to have a standing agenda item for a short update from the Strategic Community Partnership, which focuses on community agenda in order to ensure a linkage between the two Boards. Cllr Paul Ashdown will provide a short update each meeting, however Danny Steel will be presenting this on his behalf today as Vice Chair of the SCP. The Communities team oversees all the SCP's in East Suffolk.</i></p> <p>Eight Community Partnerships were established to support the decreased number of Councillors during the Waveney District Council/Suffolk Coastal merge.</p>	Danny Steel/ Nicole Rickard

	<p>In 2020/21, the CP's budget was £25,000, with the core priorities being to address childhood obesity, social isolation, and mental health and wellbeing. Lowestoft Rising have been working with schools, with a budget of £8,500 to tackle childhood obesity, and the mental health taskforce allocated a budget of £9335. The Voice of a Friend programme, where volunteers support the very many lonely people in our community through regular chats on the telephone, is now in need of additional volunteers – if you are interested please contact Citizens Advice Bureau.</p> <p>A Small Grant Scheme is now available to voluntary and community groups within the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership area, to provide services to help achieve the childhood obesity, social isolation, and mental health and wellbeing priorities.</p> <p>The grant, which can be for amount of £250-£2000, has so far received 13 applications and are now going through assessment. There have been a number of interesting projects come forward, including a virtual walks scheme – Danny will ensure, based on the comments received during the chat, that the project engages the Warren School.</p> <p>Danny thanked particularly Ben Porter, Louise Thomas and Rachel Tucker for their support with the grants.</p>	
5	<p>Update on Towns Fund and Place Making Work Gary Bellward - Town Investment Plan recap The Town Investment Plan was submitted in October 2020 (Cohort 2), with five key development sites put forward for funding; Cultural Quarter, Station Quarter, Historic Quarter, Port Gateway Improvements, South Seafront Vision.</p> <p>The Town's HUB at MHCLG are currently assessing the Town Investment Plan's submitted in Cohort 2. It is anticipated that news of any agreement will be known around mid to late February.</p> <p>There are three possible scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If successful, 'Heads of Terms' will be drawn up between MHCLG and East Suffolk Council • If successful, but with a reduced financial offer, a negotiation period will commence ahead of a new set of 'Heads of Terms' being agreed • If unsuccessful, East Suffolk Council will be allowed to resubmit an amended Town Investment Plan by 31st March 2021 for new consideration. <p>Karen Staples – Next steps and Placemaking We are waiting to agree and sign 'Heads of Terms' – we had expected to hear in January, but we have been advised this week this will likely be mid-late February. We will then seek to secure internal resources to ensure delivery February – March.</p> <p>Thank you to all who have engaged with the Placemaking work. The launch of the place branding on 26th November saw 87 people in attendance and the masterclass on the 8th December 64 attendees.</p> <p>Provisional dates for the Ambassador events are being held which are an opportunity for wider stakeholders to find out what is going on in the town and with the Town Investment Plan. If you would like to attend the ambassador event or become an ambassador, please let Gabriella Fox know. The proposed dates are 4th March, 16th July, and 12th October. While the events have been working well virtually, we are keen to do a physical event to really promote networking and place promotion as soon as responsibly possible.</p> <p>Comments Peter Aldous MP – <i>have there been any indication from Government about whether we will be successful or not? A was scheduled in Parliament last week, but this was cancelled due to COVID-19. Is there anything else Peter can do to support? Peter anticipates they will want to</i></p>	<p>Karen Staples/ Gary Bellward</p>

	<p><i>stick to the revised timetable due to the new budget being announced on 3rd March.</i> Karen advised that Historic England have been reviewing the town investment plan and have sent us positive comments. They have advised that of all the Town Investment Plans they have reviewed for the East of England, Lowestoft was the best they had seen. We have had confirmed that there have been no concerns raised about our proposal, and that it is currently being reviewed by MHCLG.</p> <p>Stephen suggested that perhaps we should have a snapshot of the projects we have as 'backups' should our first-choice projects not be deliverable. Karen to take away as an action.</p>	
6	AOB	Stephen Javes