

# Lowestoft Place Board

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 14:00-15:30 | Virtual- MS Teams



Attendees (Board)	Apologies (Board)
Stephen Javes – Chair Amanda Ankin – Suffolk Chamber Andrew Brown – Anglian Water (& BiTC) Andrew Peck – Department for Work & Pensions Cllr Ben Falat – Parish Councils representative Cllr Colin Butler – Lowestoft Town Council Cllr Craig Rivett – East Suffolk Council Cllr Paul Ashdown - Lowestoft Community Forum Cllr Richard Smith– Suffolk County Council Danny Steel – Lowestoft Vision David Dukes – New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Emma Butler Smith – Marina Theatre Julia Bates – East Coast College Peter Aldous – MP for Waveney Phil Aves – Lowestoft Rising Steven Hodger – Scottish Power Renewables Tom McGarry – EDF Tim Green – CEFAS Tom Duit – Associated British Ports	Stuart Rimmer – East Coast College Paul Ager – Associated British Ports James Robb – Marks and Spencer Genevieve Christie – First Light Festival Keith Moore – Environment Agency
Attendees (Officers/Speakers)	Apologies (Officers)
Andrew Jarvis – East Suffolk Council Darren Newman– East Suffolk Council Emma Bloom – East Suffolk Council Gary Bellward – East Suffolk Council Benjamin Porter – East Suffolk Council Kate McFarland – East Suffolk Council Kerry Blair – East Suffolk Council Paul Wood – East Suffolk Council Sarah Foote – Lowestoft Town Council Marie Webster Fitch – East Suffolk Council Jason Benham – BiTC	Nicole Rickard – East Suffolk Council Karen Thomas – Coastal Partnership East

	Description	Lead
1	Welcome and approval of previous meeting minutes	Stephen Javes
2	<b>Actions from previous meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Partnership update to be added as an item to next meeting’s agenda – see item 7</li> <li>Peter Aldous to contact to Phil Aves regarding dental services across the community – see item 4</li> <li>Kate McFarland to report at the next Place Board regarding Think Clean – see agenda item 6</li> <li>Item on the integrated care system to be added to the next agenda – to be added to next agenda</li> </ul>	Stephen Javes
3	<b>Covid Update</b> Paul advised that there were no updates specifically on this item, and it can now be removed from the agenda, with the flexibility to re-add if required.	Paul Wood

	<p>Peter noted that Covid is subsiding, however there is the risk it can increase again nearer the Autumn, so we will monitor this and can add the item onto the agenda at a later date if required.</p>	
4	<p><b>Communities update</b></p> <p>There are currently 3 rough sleepers in Waveney, with 2 situated in Lowestoft. Our accommodation is at capacity, but all of those who have requested accommodation have been housed. We are not seeing the numbers of evictions and new rough sleepers rising at present, but this could change with the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Last meeting, we raised the concern of oral health in primary school children in the town. Councillors have pooled their community budgets to distribute 1,500 dental packs through Lowestoft Rising with support from Morrisons to primary school children in years one and two, to encourage them to take care of their oral health. However, there are a number of children that require dental services for toothache but cannot access services due to a shortage of NHS dentists in the Waveney area. Peter will be raising the cost of VAT on toothbrushes with Government and has been lobbying parliament about the access of dentistry in Waveney.</p> <p>Phil noted that food is currently the biggest issue in the town at the moment, but Lowestoft has a strong food network. Supermarkets are lobbying customers at the entrance of their stores to encourage shoppers to consider food bank donations as they shop which has improved the contributions. 1300 food parcels were distributed last month, and there is still a waiting list of 50 families at the Kirkley pantry. Through the summer there will be a comprehensive food and activity programme for families, but we are seeing full time working families needing to use the food banks as the cost of living crisis increases.</p> <p>The Communities team are looking to recruit a food network coordinator for East Suffolk and expand the early intervention model for families. We are also looking at other initiatives for East Suffolk to support the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Peter noted that there is an event taking place in Bungay for Ukrainian families – Phil advised that there is now a Ukrainian Host support network established now, so we will be informing them. Andrew Peck and Sarah Foote asked for the details of the event to be shared with them to share with their networks.</p>	Phil Aves
5	<p><b>Towns Deal update</b></p> <p>Following the approval of 4/5 of the Towns Fund projects by the Board, we submitted our projects ahead of schedule to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). We are still waiting to hear the outcome of these submission from them.</p> <p>We are ready to submit our Monitoring and Evaluation report, which states where we are with our milestones and any updates to risks.</p> <p>We are now in the position to submit our bid for the Cultural Quarter which will make up the full 5 projects we submit to DLUHC. This has been approved by ESC Cabinet, and we now ask for the Board to approve. Darren presented the project to the Board, advising the locations, plans, change justification, and advised that we are working with the Marina Theatre on feasibility studies.</p> <p>The Chair asked the Board for approval of the Cultural Quarter submission, which was unanimously approved.</p>	Darren Newman
6	<p><b>Think Clean: report on cleanliness</b></p> <p>Kate introduced herself as the Waste Contract Specialist for East Suffolk Council and is working on the new waste contracts and the new East Suffolk LATCo (Local Authority Trading Company).</p>	Kate McFarland

	<p>Kate explained the gradings of areas that may or may not require regular attention and showed an example of the work completed to date on classifying areas within the town, as well as examples of some of the work carried out to date. New equipment has been purchased to help with the street cleansing across the district, and ESC are working closely with community groups, volunteers, and local companies to improve pride of place.</p> <p>To note, ESC is not responsible for every path and highway in the district. Weed spraying in other towns and parishes would usually be undertaken by Suffolk County Council Highways – however we are working on an action plan with them on this to share responsibility.</p> <p>Cllr Ashdown was keen for Kate’s team to work with rural villages to see what support could be provided and noted that there is a positive initiative on the Somerleyton Estate. Kate noted that the community support is not limited to Lowestoft, and welcome community groups to contact her. Cllr Ashdown also noted there is a need for advance notice so that residents can move their cars for street cleaners to access the kerbs.</p> <p>Cllr Rivett wondered if it would be possible to find out when the teams will be working in certain area. Kate advised the teams go out on specific jobs so there isn’t necessarily a schedule, but the action plan is for works to be completed based on grading as opposed to schedules. However, Kate is happy to look at areas that fall below the gradings and look to rectify the problems.</p> <p>Cllr Falat noted that there are also litter issues in the water, especially around Oulton Broad, and could this be considered as part of the system.</p> <p>Andrew Jarvis noted that Cllr Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment, highlights dog bin emptying on a regular basis.</p> <p>Amanda Ankin offered support in circulating information to local businesses about the initiative.</p> <p>Danny noted that it is positive to see the work being undertaken but would encourage SCC to clean the street signs.</p> <p>Cllr Smith thanked Andy for the supportive comments about the shared responsibility for weed removal. Cllr Smith also noted that unfortunately there is no budget within the Highways department at SCC for the signage cleaning. Cllr Rivett noted that there is a community budget within SCC for volunteers to perhaps fund cleaning equipment for sign cleaning.</p>	
7	<p><b>Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Update</b></p> <p>The Community Partnership has created an initiative to create healthy eating cards which feature recipe ideas containing 5 fruit or vegetables and are designed to support people in making healthy choices and help tackle obesity which is a growing concern in the town.</p> <p>The partnership is also keen to engage allotments into the healthy school’s programme but at present we do not have sufficient funding.</p> <p>The Task and Finish Group have been working on mental health and isolation and identified an opportunity to open village halls, which are underutilised, for 2 days a week, so that local people have a warm, safe place, along with a meal, as well as resources for support for families, which would help with the cost of living and fuel crisis. At present the group are seeking funding to commence the project.</p>	Cllr Paul Ashdown Danny Steel

	<p>A project is due to start in July to provide transport in rural villages and will see a twice weekly service introduced. Access to rural transport is still an ongoing concern.</p> <p>Danny noted that there is an ambition from Sizewell C to support the community, but there are more organisations that we can approach for project support and would be grateful for Place Board members to reach out to contacts if they can provide support through community budgets.</p> <p>Phil noted that we would support the Ambassador programme to support the Community Partnerships, if the Place Board was in agreement.</p> <p><b>Action: Kate Ellis to send Danny contact details for contacts within Lowestoft for Community Support.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Danny and Cllr Ashdown to be invited to next Ambassador Group event.</b></p>	
8	<p><b>East Coast College: External Partnerships</b></p> <p>Julia Bates was introduced to the Board as East Coast College’s new Deputy Principal Curriculum and Strategic Partnerships, who has been appointed to transform ECC’s curriculum and relationships with employers.</p> <p>Julia explained the importance of partnership working which supports skills education, noting that it is critical to involve employers and the community to support the curriculum for young people, but also to upskill adult learners. ECC’s ambition is for education leavers to be ‘job ready’. The college is already looking forward to launching its new T Levels in September. T Levels are two-year technical programmes, designed with employers, to give young people the skills that industries need. T Levels provide 16 to 19 -year olds a technical alternative to A levels, with one T Level being the equivalent to 3 A levels.</p> <p>Cllr Ashdown would like to extend an invitation to Julia to attend the Community Partnerships meeting, which he will send details for.</p> <p>Tom McGarry noted that as part of EDF’s MOU with East Coast College, there will be an investment in the college’s Skills Centre as well as in adult skills across wider the wider community.</p>	Julia Bates
9	<p><b>Green Corridor</b></p> <p>Cllr Falat introduced a new initiative by Oulton Broad Parish Council (OBPC), to enhance land that is currently unoccupied located beside the Normanston Drive roundabout and improve the connection between Normanston Park and Kesgrave Field. OBPC owns the two sites, Kesgrave Field and Slaters Pit.</p> <p>Part of the area has already seen new build housing introduced, and some parts are outlined for allotments, however other areas of the sites were part of a historic waste tip and are not suitable for any major intervention as we are unable to dig or garden at this location. However, it would be suitable to transform into a green corridor, woodland walk and community orchard.</p> <p>A large amount of clearance has already taken place. OBPC’s ambition is to have this complete by the end of the Jubilee Year.</p>	Cllr Ben Falat
10	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>Cllr Butler advised that the development phase for the Town Hall have progressed. Moss King Associates will take on the role of Heritage Coordinator, and Historic England will be appointing a Conservation Management Plan Consultant.</p> <p>Phil Aves asked that the Place Board utilise the Place Making images in the Board meeting as discussed at the previous meeting. If anyone is unable to locate the images, please email Kate or Gabriella.</p>	Stephen Javes

