

Communities and Partnership Committee Minutes

Date: 21st January 2021

Time: 10:00am to 11:45am

Present: Councillors S Criswell (Chairman), L Nieto (Vice-Chairwoman), B Ashwood, H Batchelor, A Costello, L Every, J French, E Meschini, M Smith and S Taylor

332. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sanderson (substituted by Councillor Simone Taylor).

There were no declarations of interest.

333. a) Minutes of the Meeting Held on 3rd December 2020

Councillor Taylor observed that she had not attended the meeting on 3rd December and would therefore abstain from participating in the item.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

b) Communities and Partnership Committee Action Log

With reference to Minute 328 on the Action Log, the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships noted that the Assistant Director of Community Safety would provide Members with an update on hate crime statistics and the Council's response during the presentation of the Report of the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships (agenda item no. 4).

The Committee noted the Action Log.

334. Petitions and Public Questions

There were no petitions or public questions.

335. Report of the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships

The Committee received a report from the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships which provided an overview of strategic activity relevant to the

Committee, relating to both the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and work the Committee and its service directorate had responsibility for. Highlighting the vital role of the Committee in both leading and supporting the response to the pandemic on a County-wide and local level, the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships proposed the adoption of a wholesale focus on social mobility in its work, in both theory and practice. Noting that social mobility sought to tackle a wide range of inequalities, including economic, health and experiences, he argued that it was a critical moment to address issues that continued to be exacerbated by the widespread impacts of the pandemic. Once the People and Communities directorate, led by the Communities and Partnership Committee, had aligned itself to the principles of social mobility and improving outcomes, focus would move on to ensuring that the whole Council adopted a similar approach, before harnessing the capacity of partners and partnership groups, such as the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). If the Committee agreed to base its agenda around social mobility moving forwards, it would begin to receive a dedicated report at each meeting, as well as holding a training workshop in February.

Drawing attention to the forthcoming Cambridgeshire Local engagement events, he emphasised the importance of Members developing a relationship with their area's Place Coordinator, now that they were all in place. The Covid-19 Coordination and Response Hub was again providing support to all those who required it during the national lockdown, although he noted that the service was being provided in a more targeted and focussed way than previously, as a result of experience that had been gained and the strong working relationships that were now already in place with partners. Residents were being supported in travelling to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, while work was being carried out to promote the vaccine, particularly with regard to vulnerable people and those who were reticent to take it. Referring to section 2.3.2 (iv) of the report, he informed Members that a bid had been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for funding to support people with complex needs who were currently excluded, noting that the Service Director report in March 2021 would provide an update on the result of the bid.

The Assistant Director of Community Safety informed the Committee that statistics from the Cambridgeshire Constabulary indicated that hate crime reporting had generally been consistent with pre-pandemic levels throughout the previous year. Although there had been a reduction during the first lockdown, figures suggested that efforts to make it easier for victims to report had been successful. The most frequent types of hate crime reported were those related to race and while figures generally remained at similarly low levels, Members were informed that anti-Semitic graffiti had appeared and been removed in Ely. Victims of hate crime were spread across all age groups, although he suggested that crime involving younger people often went unreported with the constabulary when it was reported and managed on a local level, such as within schools. Victims tended to be male and of white British ethnicity, and while the same was largely true of suspects, an anomaly occurred in the northern section of the County, where there were a greater number of female suspects than male suspects. He highlighted work being carried out to address repeat offenders, with the Council having secured £40k funding for a pilot scheme aimed at providing intervention programs to known hate crime offenders, with an

update to be provided to the Committee once the scheme progressed past the planning stage.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Recognised that it was an ideal moment to focus on social mobility, given the strong and far-reaching partnership working that had developed in response to the pandemic, although one Member suggested that such a broad approach would need to be carefully monitored to avoid overlap or duplication of work and to ensure that everyone was involved and working together. The Service Director acknowledged the difficulty in ensuring that all voices could be heard in such a large group, but informed the Committee that the fortnightly meeting of the Community Resilience Group (CRG) provided an excellent opportunity for insight, debate and interaction by all those involved. A smaller group then considered afterwards what was discussed and subsequently presented proposals for action at the following meeting.
- Paid tribute to the work that had been carried out by communities and local, voluntary and faith organisations, often in an informal way without being asked, or under the leadership of town or parish councils. It was noted that anything agreed by the CRG would then need to be adjusted for the different localities across the region in order to fulfil the needs of each individual area, and also to adapt to the strengths of the different partnerships already in place.
- Emphasised the need for a bottom-up approach to the strategy in order to gain support from all partners across the County. The Head of Think Communities acknowledged the suggestion and highlighted the Cambridgeshire Local engagement events that would be held throughout February and March as a means of developing an understanding of how everything would fit together.
- Expressed concern that since the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had taken over the process of recruiting volunteers to assist in the Covid-19 vaccination programme, applicants for the national NHS Volunteer Responders programme were required to register and provide proof of identification before waiting up to two weeks to be accepted. The Service Director acknowledged the concern and informed Members that he had discussed the matter with local organisations that had previously been carrying out the recruitment, paying tribute to their work and emphasising the benefits of their local knowledge. The recruitment to the NHS scheme was being carried out nationally, with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG unable to break from the wider process, although he noted that both the CCG and the Health Protection Board were considering the issue and how to reduce the level of confusion over responsibilities. He suggested that the high level of demand for volunteers for a wide range of functions, including testing, outbreak management and vaccinations, meant that to split recruitment across different organisations would exacerbate confusion and add to pressure on potential applicants. He undertook to provide Members with an update once these issues had been resolved and the vaccination programme was underway. **Action required**

- Confirmed that every request for support through the Winter Support Grant Scheme had been followed up with a detailed phone conversation that established specific circumstances and needs, whenever contact could be made. The Service Director noted that many people had already received emergency support and, on the applicant's agreement, details of their needs were passed on to the wider network of partners in order to increase the level of support that could be provided. This could include simple assistance, such as switching energy providers, or it could be more complex, such as in-depth debt advice or identifying long-term opportunities through the Skills service.
- Queried whether it was possible to estimate the number of requests that would be made for the Winter Support Grant Scheme, and therefore how much funding would be left over for alternative use. The Service Director noted that one of the main features of the scheme would involve issuing free school meals vouchers during the February half term and the assumption was that everybody eligible for vouchers would use them, leaving a small balance to allow the Council to support families in the longer term.
- Suggested that the penalties for perpetrators of hate crimes could be more widely advertised, so as to act as a deterrent. Noting that sentences were longer for crimes that had an aggravating factor, such as a hate element, the Assistant Director of Community and Safety informed Members that the judicial system was actively supportive of such measures. He confirmed that clear cases of conviction were publicised through local media to inform the public.
- Welcomed the efficient and effective response of the Community Safety Partnership to the anti-Semitic graffiti in Ely.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note and comment on the key themes discussed in this report; and
- b) Endorse the proposals to create a clear and ambitious focus on social mobility to support levelling up all communities across Cambridgeshire.

336. Innovate and Cultivate Fund 2019-2020 Evaluation Report

The Committee received the Innovate and Cultivate Fund 2019-2020 Evaluation Report following the annual evaluation that had been carried out by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and members of the Innovate and Cultivate Steering Group. Among the feedback received from the evaluation, the value of preapplication sessions had been identified as being of significant importance in improving the likelihood of projects being accepted, as demonstrated by the fact that many of the unsuccessful projects had not attended these sessions. Members' attention was drawn to the positive outcomes for the beneficiaries of the fourteen completed projects and the wider community, as set out in section 2.12 of the report, along with the impacts of Covid-19 on funded projects, as set out in section 2.14. The Committee was informed that the total estimated return on investment from the fourteen completed projects, including the grant award, was actually £647,832, and

not £427,894, as incorrectly written in section 2.8 and Appendix 2 of the report, with confirmation that the error was confined to the report, with no impact on funding or the allocation of any grants.

As a result of the evaluation process and following feedback from applicants, service leads, the ICF steering group, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and Recommendation Panel members, the ICF Steering Group had made the following recommendations, which were set out in section 2.17 of the report:

- 1) Request to the General Purposes Committee for a further £300k in additional funds to continue ICF as a Cultivate-only fund. This focus is appropriate for delivery of Cambridgeshire Local, enabling local communities to develop person-centred, place-based solutions.
- 2) Discontinue the Innovate funding stream with immediate effect and therefore the requirement for a 2-stage application process and 2-stage panel meetings.
- 3) Train Think Communities Community Connectors, as part of their induction, to act as ambassadors for the fund in their place, and, to bring back the learning from their local connections to develop ideas for impactful community activity.
- 4) Refine the monitoring requirements for all grants:
 - Cultivate monitoring to be changed from quarterly to bi-annually; and
 - Innovate monitoring to be changed from quarterly submissions to a maximum of five monitoring reports over the grant funding period.
- 5) Develop a new project monitoring system that integrates project monitoring with CCF's established salesforce project monitoring system, removing the requirement for service lead to sign-off monitoring by handing responsibility for monitoring returns against the agreed project plans to Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. Service leads to continue to set project targets and outcomes, to retain ongoing oversight of projects and to lead on end of project evaluations.
- 6) Revise the system for CCC payment of grant instalments to Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, to a more administratively efficient maximum of two grant payments for each project.

While discussing the report and recommendations from the ICF Steering Group, Members:

- Welcomed the benefits enjoyed by local communities as a result of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund.
- Sought confirmation on whether the proposal to remove the Innovate funding stream would be on a permanent basis. The Think Communities Manager indicated that it would be permanent, noting that the Cultivate funding stream generally supported smaller, local community groups, which was more aligned to the Cambridgeshire Local approach.
- Sought clarification on the level of funding that was available for allocation each year, noting that the report stated that the total amount of funding committed between December 2016 and 1 August 2020 was up to £1.685m. The Think Communities Manager informed Members the fund had initially been launched with £1m available for allocation, with a further £1m provided in January 2019,

and she clarified that these funding provisions were not time restricted. It was also highlighted that figures related to funding that had been committed were liable to slight fluctuation over time, as not all projects complied with the conditional nature of their funding, while other projects ended up not requiring the full amount and some had even withdrawn completely despite having been successful in their bid for funding.

- Observed that despite £1.685m having been allocated from an overall pot of £2m, only £139k remained available for funding, as opposed to £315k. Members were informed that besides the allocation of funding, the fund also involved additional costs, such as administration and fees.
- Expressed concern that requesting an £300k in additional funds would preclude further requests for more significant levels of funding in the future. It was confirmed that that any future requests for funding would be considered on their individual merit and would not be jeopardised by the proposed request. Members also noted the importance of avoiding a complete depletion of the current fund, as this would mean that it would not be possible to advertise future funding rounds or to fund schemes that had been already approved.
- Confirmed that ending the Innovate funding stream would not affect those projects that had already been approved for Innovate funding.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Support and endorse the recommendations from the Innovate and Cultivate Fund Steering Group, as listed in section 2.17 of the report.

337. Community Champions Oral Updates

The Committee noted oral updates provided by the following Community Champions:

- Councillor Costello (Huntingdonshire), who informed Members that the Winter Warmers campaign had been so successful, the distribution of donated products could expand beyond Huntingdonshire, while a further round of collections would be held in February. A written update was also provided and attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.
- Councillor Every (East Cambridgeshire), who highlighted the importance of Community Safety Partnerships, noting that an ongoing thematic change in focus from safer streets to domestic violence and child exploitation involved the development of an action plan. She drew attention to work being carried out to pull together councillors across the different tiers of local government to ensure consistency and complete coverage in the dissemination of information and messages, and informed the Committee that a local initiative for sourcing devices for schools was underway, while she was also providing support to an application

for funding from the Innovate and Cultivate Fund. A written update was also provided and attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

- Councillor French (Fenland), who welcomed the success of the March and District Community Action Team (MADCAT) in distributing hundreds of food hampers and Christmas meals with support from March Town Council, local businesses and volunteers. She informed Members that following a successful 'cooking at home' pilot that provided 21 young people with the ingredients to cook a full meal for themselves and their family every day for three weeks, funding had been obtained to offer a similar initiative to 120 people over a six-week period. The Fenland Youth Advisory Board was placing a focus on tackling youth food poverty and was supporting the creation of social supermarkets.
- Councillor Meschini (Cambridge), who welcomed the additional resources available to Community Champions that allowed them support and enhance work that was already in place. She also highlighted the importance of ensuring that Cambridge City did not miss out from the benefits of Cambridgeshire Local due to the fact that it did not have parish councils, noting that discussions were underway to establish how to overcome these challenges.

338. Communities and Partnership Committee Agenda Plan

The Service Director for Communities and Partnerships noted that following the Committee's agreement to establish social mobility as the focus of its work, a report on the subject would be presented at each Committee meeting in the future, while a training workshop would be organised on the reserve meeting date of 18th February 2021.

The Committee noted its Agenda Plan.

Chairman
4th March 2021

Community Champion of Community Activity Update

Community Champion: Cllr Adela Costello

Place: Huntingdonshire

Date: 21 January 2021

Update	
<p>A good quality of life for everyone. Gain a deep understanding at a District/City level through discussion with officers and local members where appropriate, of key issues which impact on demand for County Council Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essentials by Sue and Winter Warmers reduces the impact on County Council Services by accepting donations of items and distributing them to the most vulnerable within the local community. Although Essentials by Sue is on hold during the various forms of lockdown, we are still able to collect and distribute winter warmers under strict Covid 19 safety arrangements. • Working with Place based Co-ordinators to arrange consultations/meetings in service delivery areas, to hopefully start in February through Zoom meetings.
<p>The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children. Focussing on relevant issues for the District/City, report back to Committee and the Communities Network on areas of strength and areas for improvement which would strengthen impact on outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children having access to suitable warm clothing during the winter months in particular those in fuel poverty. This is being distributed by various organisations including Cornerstone and P3. • Older children having opportunities to collect necessary toiletries to enhance their daily lives, which is on hold at present as schools/youth clubs and community centres are closed again. • Supporting opportunities for early years children to access play and learn social activities, again on hold. • Taking responsibility as a Corporate Parent for our Children in Care which recently involved an audit of PEPs.
<p>Thriving place for people to live Engaging and working with communities and other elected representatives for relevant Divisions as needed across the District so people's voices are heard and self-sustaining communities are encouraged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging and working with local organisations throughout Huntingdonshire to provide for district communities to enable them to be self-sustaining and have a voice. • Recent flooding events in Ramsey required all council organisations, charities and volunteers to assist those people affected by flooding throughout Huntingdonshire. • A plea for Christmas presents for children in Ramsey on 24th December resulted in so many donations that they were also distributed to Alconbury/Alconbury Wild by Ramsey Rotary on Christmas Day. • Equally the farming community should be receiving support to address the maintenance of ditches/drains

	<p>to ensure their land is sustainable for the production of food. As a riparian land owner this is a requirement by law and should be part of the agenda of Cambridgeshire Local endorsed through The Environment Agency and internal drainage boards to ensure effective controls over management of water disposal.</p>
<p>Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging cycle ways throughout the District and locally within my ward. • Inspire parish employment opportunities reducing the need to travel using carbon fuelled vehicles plus promoting the use of electric cars. • Work with local parishes to bring tree planting in community green areas which will enhance the environment and will help to improve air quality with successful management of trees and woodlands. • Virtual meetings will continue to reduce carbon emissions as people work from home. • Local parish councils to offer opportunities for allotment tenants to grow organically. • Carbon emissions will not decrease as long as flooding continues as this requires pumping using power. • All new developments should reconsider their responsibilities in providing adequate surface water removal through attenuation ponds and other drainage systems that will prevent unnecessary increased carbon emissions through addressing damp/mould/rebuilding/renovating etc.
<p>Sustainability of initiatives and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essentials by Sue has proved problematic during the Covid -19 period as firstly schools/Youth Clubs and public building such as libraries were closed. Even though everything opened again, it was on a very limited basis and although some have managed to continue with the project, others faced problems with collection and distribution of items. This may be resolved in 2021. • A new initiative, Winter Warmers asking for donations of knitted/crocheted items such as blankets, shawls, hats, scarves and gloves from local organisations, commenced in October. The assembly points for donations were to be the libraries in our four major towns which would then have been collected and stored in a warehouse to be distributed as required. Unfortunately the 2nd lockdown came into place and the libraries could not continue to be recipients. However, the knitters in Ramsey, including the W.I., U3A and Timebank volunteers were not prepared to

wait and I personally collected all items and stored them safely under Covid-19 regulations. Over 250 pieces of knitwear were collected and distributed to Ramsey Foodbank, P3 (charity working with homeless people) Coneygear Centre in Huntingdon where staff apportioned them to the elderly plus Cornerstone, a charity working with young mums with babies/children. During the last weeks of December/early January, a massive number of 670 items were dropped off at libraries and collected by officers. These are now ready for re-distribution but instead of just working within Huntingdonshire, the intention is to make these available countywide for all residents experiencing fuel poverty. Knitters are still working and a further deposit day within the libraries is planned for the first week in February, which will then be collected and distributed amongst vulnerable families/the elderly/homeless and anyone else requiring support.

Community Good Practice

- Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC plus local parishes and organisations such as Hunts Forum within this difficult time, in particular, during the flooding of many areas of Huntingdonshire. Liaising with the libraries to deliver opportunities in particular, their own projects such as the Library Presents Christmas Window at Ramsey Library promoting local artists, both professional and amateur. I was involved in a video which I have yet to see.
- Linking with groups who are able to provide support for the most vulnerable in our local communities, for instance the W.I. and U3A plus others. In particular, the charitable organisations who worked tirelessly on Xmas Eve and Xmas Day to sustain the children and residents who had lost so much during the flooding. Ramsey Rotary provided Santa Claus on Xmas Day to provide presents to those children in Ramsey who had lost gifts but equally went to Alconbury because so much had been donated.
- Ensuring that members of the public have access to all necessary and vital information through local media sites. I was able to notify residents in the area that Doddington Hospital would be the local vaccination centre when released on 15/01/2021 and can confirm that the system works, when my 93 year old mother received an appointment for Wednesday 20th January!

Community Champion of Community Activity Update

Community Champion: Cllr Lis Every

Place: East Cambridgeshire

Date: 21 January 2021

Update	
<p>A good quality of life for everyone Gain a deep understanding at a District/City level through discussion with officers and local members where appropriate, of key issues which impact on demand for County Council Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the review of how the problem solving and delivery groups support the CSP; set up steering group for Safer Streets initiative; • Working with ECDC on their Leisure and outdoor activity Covid-strategy; • Asked to set up Fund Raising steering group to support new community football pitch at Soham Village College • New theme of CSP: domestic violence and child exploitation. • Joined the PCN North Drugs and Alcohol Group • Working with Place Based Co-ordinator next stages for Cambridgeshire Live events. • Working with Ely Covid-19 Mutual as volunteer (focus Ely) Working with VCAEC on developing their Volunteering service and car share scheme alongside ECDC (supported by their grant) • Undertaking research on resident consultation for newly proposed Community Hub for North Ely.
<p>The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children. Focussing on relevant issues for the District/City, report back to Committee and the Communities Network on areas of strength and areas for improvement which would strengthen impact on outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Youth Advisory Board starting 20.1.21. • Input into meetings on the feasibility of the Splash Pad and Skate park initiative; • Next stage working with the ECDC Youth strategy. • Working on widening the young people in care voices to members through the Children in Care Council – looking at CSP role with care leavers, wider than just housing • Working to set up Skills Forum with ECDC and Fenland. • Part of the newly formed Steering Group for the proposed Local Education Partnership for East Cambridgeshire now undertaking research. • Working with Littleport Parish councillors on their bid to the Cultivate Fund for a Youth Worker

<p>Thriving place for people to live Engaging and working with communities and other elected representatives for relevant Divisions as needed across the District so people's voices are heard and self-sustaining communities are encouraged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Review Working Party representative for ECDC. • Work continues with Library Presents, Ely Museum, Cambridgeshire Music, Chamber of Commerce – refocus for Learning and Skills sector. • Implementing the new Friends of the Sessions House in Ely promoting it as an arts, heritage and community centre for the wider area.
<p>Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with ECDC and the City of Ely Council's on implementation of their policies (member of both the relevant committees) on Climate change.
<p>Sustainability of initiatives and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering case studies together of good practice, working on sustainable structures for continuity, supporting Cambridgeshire Live initiatives.
<p>Community Good Practice</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC plus local parishes and organisations such as Hunts Forum during this difficult time. Liaising with the libraries to deliver opportunities; • Linking with groups who are able to provide support for the most vulnerable in our local communities, for instance the W.I. and U3A plus others; • Ensuring that members of the public have access to all necessary and vital information through local media sites. 	