

COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 20th May 2020

Time: 10:00am – 11:10am

Venue: Virtual Meeting

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

264. NOTIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN/WOMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN/WOMAN

The Committee noted the re-appointment of Councillor Criswell as Chairman of the Communities and Partnership Committee, and the appointment of Councillor Nieto as Vice-Chairwoman of the Committee, for the municipal year 2020/21.

265. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No apologies for absence were received.

Councillor Criswell declared an interest in agenda item 6 (Communities Capital Fund – Endorsement of Recommendations (May 2020)) as the local Member for Somersham and Earith (recommendation (ii): Somersham Outdoor Play Equipment).

Councillor French declared an interest in agenda item 6 (Communities Capital Fund – Endorsement of Recommendations (May 2020)) as the local Member for March North & Waldersley (recommendation (iv): Estover Park, March and recommendation (v): Tower Hall, Friday Bridge Refurbishment).

266. a) MINUTES – 22ND APRIL 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2020 were approved as a correct record and it was agreed that they would be signed by the Chairman when the Council returned to its offices.

b) COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES ACTION LOG

The Service Director of Communities and Partnerships informed Members that two further updates to the Action Log had been provided since it had been published. In response to the Minute 245 (Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation), the Director of Public Health had confirmed that the East of England Ambulance Service Trust Board had not been involved in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultation to date. However, the Ambulance Trust was included on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sustainable Transformation Partnership and some of its sub-groups, which were included in the consultation.

In response to Minute 260 (Cambridgeshire County Council's Response to COVID-19), the Director of Education had written to reassure the Committee that food vouchers could be used to make online purchases through all the major home delivery supermarkets, although there had been some teething issues with the facility. He also noted that the Council raised concerns with the Department for Education about the vouchers on a daily basis whenever schools indicated problems.

Members requested an update on Minute 233 (Growing Fenland – Town Reports) and the Service Director agreed to request further information from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. **Action required**

Noting that Minute 260 (Cambridgeshire County Council's Response to COVID-19) only stated that the National Farmers' Union (NFU) had been contacted regarding its proposed participation in the Community Reference Group, Members queried whether further progress had been achieved. The Service Director informed the Committee that the NFU had been invited to join the group in order to provide further input on recovery for rural businesses and communities, alongside that already provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) and Cambridgeshire ACRE. He also informed Members that the Economic Recovery Cell, which had been created as part of the Local Resilience Forum's recovery plan, was cognisant of the issue of rural economic recovery and was also establishing connections with the NFU.

The Committee agreed to note the Minutes Action Log.

267. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No petitions or public questions were received.

268. CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Chairman reminded the Committee that officers had been asked to bring a report on the Covid-19 response to date for those services for which each Policy and Service Committee was responsible. Given the rapidly changing situation and the need to provide the committee and the public with the most up to date information possible, the Chairman reported that he had accepted this as a late report on the following grounds:

1. Reason for lateness: To allow the report to contain the most up to date information possible.
2. Reason for urgency: To enable the committee to be briefed on the current situation in relation to the Council's response to Covid-19 for those services for which it was responsible.

The Service Director of Communities and Partnerships drew Members' attention to section 3 of the report, which contained updates on the services under the remit of the Committee, as well as information on the work carried out by the Countywide COVID-19 Coordination and Response Hub. He informed Members that the skills service had launched a web-based and person-based offer for those who were self-isolating, shielding, or had been furloughed, with concern over the mental health and wellbeing of people who were at home for extended periods of time. It was reported that the

demand for domestic abuse and sexual violence services had plateaued and that the service had adapted well to the increased demand. The Service Director highlighted the backlog faced by the Coroner and Registration services, but assured the Committee that the Council's recovery planning included measures that would enable them to deal with the backlogs in a timely manner.

Members were informed that at the end of the day prior to the meeting, 17,089 people had formally registered as shielding across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, all of whom received the attention as laid out in section 3 of the report. The Service Director emphasised that contact was maintained with those who already had a support structure in place in case that structure were to disappear in the future, and that the hub had responded to over 9000 requests for help, such as providing food or medicine supplies, friendship, or carrying out household chores.

While discussing the contents of the report, Members:

- Paid tribute to the collaboration and partnership approach between the different local authorities, noting that the district and city councils were reaching a wider group of people than just those shielding or self-isolating.
- Sought clarification on how births were being registered, given that the inability to register them in the standard way could produce long-term problems stemming from the risk of not being able to establish where babies had been born. The Service Director confirmed that information of all births across Cambridgeshire was being captured, and that arrangements were in place for formal birth registrations to occur in the months following the lockdown. This was in line with the national guidance. He assured Members that all identities were known and recorded and that currently the only difference was regarding the formal registration. It was suggested that some guidance on the current situation could be circulated to Members and published on the website for residents' reference. **Action required**
- Expressed concern for people who were waiting for their citizenship ceremony, some of whom found themselves with travel, visa and passport complications, and requested an update on when the ceremonies would begin to be held again, with a suggestion that the ceremonies or tests could be held virtually. **Action required**
- Sought clarification on whether couples who had had their marriage ceremonies cancelled would have to pay again for expired banns of marriage. The Service Director informed Members that he would request a formal response from the Registration Service Manager, but indicated that the Council would be as flexible as possible with such situations.
- Expressed concern that around 12,000 of the people identified by the NHS needing to be shielded from the virus were still not on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough registered shielded list, and sought assurances that efforts were being made to support them. Noting that registration was not compulsory, the Service Director informed Members that initial contacts made by the national shielding service to around 4500 people had proved inconclusive, for reasons such as no response, language issues, or the person suspecting the call was a scam. Over the previous week, the Council, in conjunction with partners including Team Rubicon, British Red Cross and the Fire Service, had visited each of these 4500 people in order to establish whether they were safe and well, as well as to encourage them to register, which had resulted in an increase in the number of those registered.

- Observed a disparity between the number of people on the registered shielded list in the different districts across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with Huntingdonshire having more than double those in East Cambridgeshire. Acknowledging the disparity between the districts, the Service Director indicated that it was largely due to the different demographic profiles of each community, with some areas home to an older population than others, for example. He proposed demonstrating this information per capita in future versions of the report. **Action required**
- Requested greater clarity on the level of funding that the Council expected to receive from the Government and when such funding would be provided, in order to give context to anticipated spending plans. The Service Director noted that the Council had already received its allocation of national additional funding announced to date but was unable to provide information on any future funding. Members were informed that reporting on all costs attributed to COVID-19 were being collated and shared with the government, as indicated in section 4 of the report, to emphasise the extent of the financial pressures on the Council.
- Sought an update on the volunteers that had signed up to assist in providing support to the community. The Service Director expressed admiration for the self-generated response that had emerged and emphasised the Council's desire to sustain the voluntary community support beyond the response phase, acknowledging that this meant the Council should not try and control everything that was emerging. He noted that the Council had shared details of around 800 volunteers with partner authorities to allow them to be deployed locally and informed Members that around half of the volunteers had a current enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and around 140 volunteers were training to provide support in care homes. A framework was being developed with partners to create accessible arrangements for volunteers to participate in whatever way they chose in the future, without a bureaucratic burden, and in a safe and structured way, on which further information would be provided at the following Committee meeting.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Note the progress made to date in responding to the impact of the Coronavirus.

269. COMMUNITIES CAPITAL FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS (MAY 2020)

The Committee received a report which detailed the applications to the Communities Capital Fund that had been recommended for funding by the Member Panel. Members were informed that 40 applications had been received from a broad range of community-led projects and it was observed that the first round of applications had been relatively low cost. Of these, the Member Panel had identified five projects which they considered to have met the criteria and which would create the greatest impact. The Head of Communities and Partnerships Integration clarified that the recommended funding of £36,000 for the Tower Hall, Friday Bridge Refurbishment was a suggested maximum amount, subject to a written quotation and confirmation of planning permission. Further applications were progressing through various stages of assessment and the intention was to hold a second Member Panel meeting in order to

allow for further recommendations to be made to the next Committee meeting on 18th June 2020.

While discussing the recommended applications, Members:

- Observed that any convening of the Member Panel to consider applications for recommendation to the Committee would not involve any Members that had supported any of the applications under consideration.
- Noted that Councillor Count had also supported the Estover Park, March application.

It was resolved to:

Approve the following applications for funding:

- (i) Sawtry Skatepark - £18,000;
- (ii) Somersham Outdoor Play Equipment - £32,560;
- (iii) Enhancements to Overcote, Over - £25,597;
- (iv) Estover Park, March - £35,000;
- (v) Tower Hall, Friday Bridge Refurbishment – a maximum of £36,000, subject to written quotations being made available from the applicant and confirmation of planning permission).

270. COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS ORAL UPDATES

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

- Councillor Costello (Huntingdonshire), who informed Members that she had been involved in supporting applications to the Communities Capital Fund. A written update was provided and attached as **Appendix 1** to the minutes.
- Councillor Every (East Cambridgeshire), who noted that she had been appointed the Chairwoman of the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership and drew Members' attention towards the Cambs Youth Panel, noting that it had received lottery funding to support school students with electronic devices and urged Members to contact the panel on behalf of anyone that they knew who required assistance. A written update was provided and is attached as **Appendix 2** to the minutes.
- Councillor French (Fenland), who noted that she had been helping in the community as much as she could.

271. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES, INTERNAL ADVISORY GROUPS, PANELS AND COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

The Committee considered its agenda plan and appointments to outside bodies, internal advisory groups, panels and Community Champions.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Noted that the Wisbech Community Development Trust was currently in abeyance and that the appointment of a representative to the body would therefore be deferred until a later date.
- Confirmed that appointments to the Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) were made by the Children and Young People Committee.
- Observed that the Communities Capital Fund Member Panel should be added to the list of internal advisory group appointments. **Action required**
- Suggested that the contact details for some of the outside bodies and internal groups required updating. **Action required**
- Considered a replacement for Councillor Goldsack as the Council's Community Safety Champion and it was agreed to appoint Councillor Nieto.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Review its agenda plan attached at Appendix 1 of the report;
- b) Agree the appointments to outside bodies as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, subject to the removal of the Fenland Strategic Partnership from the list of outside bodies, and the appointment of Councillor Meschini as the Council's representative on the Cambridge City Community Safety Partnership to replace Councillor Richards;
- c) Agree the appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, subject to the following changes;
 - Councillor Nieto to replace Councillor Goldsack, and Councillor Meschini to replace Councillor Richards on the County Advisory Group on Archives and Local Studies
 - Councillor Nieto to replace Councillor Goldsack, and Councillor Meschini to replace Councillor Richards on the Innovate and Cultivate Fund Bid Assessment Panel
 - Councillor Taylor to replace Councillor Dupre, with Councillor Batchelor as the substitute, on the Poverty Working Group
 - Councillor Every to replace Councillor Nieto on Library Presents;
- d) Appoint Councillor Meschini as the Community Champion for the Cambridge City area; and
- e) Appoint Councillor Nieto as the Council's Community Safety Champion.

Chairman
18th June 2020

Community Champion of Community Activity update

Community Champion:	Adela Costello
Place:	Huntingdonshire
Date:	18 th May 2020

UPDATE

- **Since the last Community and Partnership meeting in April, nothing much has really changed as we are still in lockdown, however, hopefully as the situation eases, some of our public buildings will re-open and projects can re-commence.**

NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

- The continuing priority is to support local communities and organisations who are helping vulnerable people shielding during this crisis. I am still involved with the Ramsey Covid-19 Hub which supplies food parcels and contact for those isolated and continue to give support and advice.
- I persevere in my endeavour to help local village halls and groups who have lost vital income, to access the Business Grants provided by Huntingdonshire District Council. These halls and groups such as the Gauntlet Project, which teaches young people to ride motor bikes safely, will be a vital source of community resilience when they are able to open again.
- I am still supporting Hamerton Wildlife Park which is in desperate need of finance having lost all the income from visitors. They received a £25,000 grant through DEFRA but are still looking for further income, although the government has pledged money to maintain our zoos, they still are unaware how to access this. There is also a lot of confusion as to when they can re-open, for although they are outdoors, ticketed attractions are still closed.
- The initial two projects I have sponsored for the Community Capital Grant, Ramsey Community Hub and the Great Fen Project have been approved to continue to level 2 which requires further detail and a business plan. I continue to assist them in this. I am still trying to find match funding for Sustrans (an organisation which promotes cycle ways and car free streets) from HDC and Huntingdon Town Council which looks quite hopeful. Also involved with a project from Upwood Cricket Club for a renewal of their premises. I have been approached by the committee from St. Ives Corn Exchange to place an expression of interest for improvements but as yet have not received this. I have been a member of the deciding panel for applications under £50,000 on two occasions. The Community Capital Fund is definitely opening doors for many organisations in our county which is very exciting.
- I am working with VoiceAbility, an organisation for adults with learning disabilities who recently undertook a transport survey for those with High Special Needs which showed the need for much improvement in this area due to the lack of availability of suitable vehicles and even access to trains. This is again in abeyance due to Covid-19.
- Keeping in contact with officers from CCC and HDC who have worked on my projects.
- Forwarding as much information as possible to local social media websites, HDC councillors and officers plus the parishes including the need for foster carers, contacts for Domestic Abuse sufferers, etc.

COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE

- Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC plus local parishes and organisations during this difficult time.
- Ensuring that members of the public have access to all necessary and vital information.

Community Champion of Community Activity update

Community Champion:	Lis Every
Place:	East Cambridgeshire
Date:	20 th May 2020

NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES (during Coronavirus period)

No real change from the last report. Social distancing for health reasons still inevitably curtails physical support during this time. However, I am working from my office at home and work at the moment am covering:

Social media - circulating all information received from County and ECDC to Parishes and local organisations;

Working on the Community Capital Scheme sponsoring and submitting local project submissions – coming in quite quickly now; another 3 consultations this week.

Part of Wendy Lansdowne’s local Parish forum;

Elected Chair of the Community Safety Partnership at ECDC;

Working with Cambs Youth Panel on their distribution of computer devices to young people without them but required for home schooling;

Networking and signposting activities linking local neighbourhood volunteering groups, the Ely community covid-19 mutual aid group, the City of Ely Council and the ECDC Community hub;

Working with all the business organisations, Federation of Small Businesses, Chamber of Commerce and Ely Cathedral Business Group helping with access to funds;

Undertaking research and will be writing bids for a number of charities who are seeking funding to support sustainability, including the Volunteers Centre, Ely, Pos+ability, and others.

UPDATE

All work on-going but on hold.

- Monitoring local provision for Adult Skills in East Cambs. Now a member of the Combined Authority on their Skills Committee. Working with the organisations dealing with NEETs in East Cambs to upskill young people who need Maths and English qualifications. Concerns about quality of provision and duplication.
- Introduction of Youth Advisory Board which will work alongside the East Cambs Youth Strategy scheduled for April
- Training for Youth Ambassadors for the Eyes and Ears project.
- Better communications through a bi-monthly newsletter – supporting awareness of the Think communities approach. Edition 2 in 2 months. Working on next edition before Purdah!
- Working with Soham on funding for projects.
- Strategic plan for Littleport on social prescribing now in place
- Re-grouping and planning for a different approach to support the group of young people in Ely and area on building a skate park.
- Launch of the collaboration between CCC and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Chamber of Commerce visiting networking opportunities to recruit business mentors for the pilot for a Local offer plan for our care leavers in Cambridge City.
- Part of the multi-agency Mental Health Task Group for children in care researching the level of support provided by local universities.
- Working on widening Eyes and Ears project to include local schools
- Identifying business mentors for post-16 students and post-18 students leaving care.
- Discussions with VCAEC to extend car share scheme and attract volunteers outside Ely. Completely revamping provision and marketing strategy. Funding being sought.

- Continuing to work with City College, Peterborough to grow numbers on their Health and Social Care courses in East Cambridgeshire

COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE

- Initial research has been undertaken to identify the organisations in existence, what they currently offer; how these services could overlap and determining a network strategy;
- Working with parish and district councillors to create capacity and information base supporting their work in their Parishes/Wards as required;
- Building network of community providers and champions across the District.
- Improve communication with County, District and Parish Councillors, particularly embracing social media.