

Meeting Notes: Framlingham Inclusivity Project - Wednesday 22 January 2020

1st Meeting

21 people were in attendance and 4 apologies were received.

1. Welcome, purpose and structure. Cllr Jones introduced himself and Cllr Hine.

Cllr Jones welcomed everybody to the meeting, and posed the question 'Why are we here tonight?' He suggested that we all want to improve the quality of life in the town where we live.

Cllr Jones outlined the scope and purpose of the project: To facilitate a way for our community to collectively develop new project ideas for events and activities based on the needs of our community.

He outlined the structure of the group: It would be open to all, and there would be an informal working group set up to take ideas forward. A Chair and Secretary would need to be appointed and Town Council rules could mean the numbers on the working group to a maximum of 12 people.

All those attending the meeting then introduced themselves and described what they did in the town. (see list attached)

2. East Suffolk Community Partnership.

Cllr Hine described the workings of the eight new East Suffolk Community Partnership Areas and pointed out that Framlingham sits within the Framlingham and Wickham Market area. The Community Partnership has funding attached to it: £300,000 per year for at least three years, across the district and open to bids according to identified needs; and a further £20,000 for each area. The Framlingham Inclusivity Project would help identify the collective need in this area and would strengthen any bid for funding from those and any other sources.

Cllr Hine then illustrated the demographic information supplied by the Suffolk Observatory. She noted that Framlingham has significantly fewer 18-35year olds and 0-9year olds than both the National average and all the other CP areas in East Suffolk.

3. Workshop

Those present viewed the ideas wall display and divided into groups to discuss the needs and priorities for Framlingham Community.

These were then written onto post-it notes as ideas to take forward. Each group then chose the top three topics they had identified, based on suggested criteria: meeting a need, bringing people together, easy to run, and sustainable. These are listed below, grouped according to similar subject area.

3.1 The first choices selected were:

- Website Website Website! – with complete with activity calendar
- Volunteer day event – on Market Hill – have a town centre event to introduce people to what is on offer/what you can volunteer for.
- More Daytime events for those nervous about venturing about after dark
- Like the community group open day idea
- Community Open Day (TC)

3.2 The second choices selected were:

- Saturday family/anyone art workshop imagination club families to do creative activities
- Youth everything
- Music/Arts festival joint with Castle for locals and bring in visitors
- Welcome Pack to new homes or people new to the town.
- Volunteering initiative

3.3 The third choices selected were:

- Day/Week/month to view community calendar. – an online listing which community groups are able to edit.
- Youth to help elderly with IT/Digital. Mixing youth and elderly projects
- Networking/planning meeting open to all community groups to work in joint initiatives/events
- Buy John Grose building site Community open day
- Do an Asset Map - a list of all the good things, groups, places, people...

3.4 The other issues & ideas:

- Support for Volunteers
- Acknowledgement of volunteers
- Try training for volunteers
- Volunteer day – show off all that is good.
- Forget more volunteers, they are not there – Pay! Stop dreaming.
- New people welcome pack with information on organisations needing volunteers
- A central register of what we have in the town
- Website with detailed activity calendar
- Leisure Centre at College more widely promoted and used.
- The Market as a meeting place
- Existing groups working together
- Core funding for existing groups
- Tap local money - identify people who could provide support/funding
- Fund youth workers
- Drugs problem with young people
- Youth Activities and spaces
- Youth support and mentoring and support
- Holiday activities for kids – sport/drama
- Community Creche
- Community suppers – meals sharing
- Guerrilla gardeners and food group
- Community garden – growing tool how to get involved – bring in more people
- A 'Tidy Framlingham' weekend. Pick litter, clean signage etc
- Encourage people to use local businesses/shops and meet people out and about
- Employment
- Local apprenticeships and employment for young people
- New Youth Centre
- New Medical Centre
- Sheltered Housing
- Housing for Young people
- Small scale self-build with supported funding

4. Next Steps.

Cllr Jones went through the top three choices with each group and asked if there was any common issue that it could be agreed to consider taking forward? After some discussion it was felt that some of the ideas could be begun without external funding these included:

- Website community pages of information and calendar of activities and events.
- A community open day/event on the Market Hill and all around the town of clubs, groups and organisations offering activities, services, and volunteering initiative

It was felt best to 'think big' on a bid for external funding to the CPA and the favoured idea was:

- to fund a youth worker.

Cllr Jones drew the meeting to a close and advised that the date for the next meeting would be sometime in mid-February and possible dates would be circulated soon.