

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 12th September 2017 at 7.45pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, Haverhill

Present: Councillor J Burns (Chairman)
Councillor A Brown
Councillor M Byrne
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor D Roach
Councillor L Smith
Councillor W Yang

Apologies: Councillor P Fox (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor A Williams

Absent: None

In Attendance: Councillor Q Fox
Councillor I McLatchy
Colin Poole (Town Clerk)
Nick Keeble (Arts and Leisure Manager)

8 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

LC17 /058 Apologies for Absence
The above apologies were noted.

LC17 /059 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

Cllr P Hanlon	Non-Pecuniary Interest	LC17/064 Big Bash, he being on the committee of Lamp H, a beneficiary of the event's fundraising.
Cllr L Smith	Non-Pecuniary Interest	LC17/067a Project Update, Pump Track, her spouse being Chairman of the project.

LC17 /060 Minutes of the Last Meeting
It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor A Brown,

ACTION

that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2017 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

LC17 Matters Arising

/061 None.

LC17 Public Forum

/062 It was reported that Suffolk Family Carers is drawing back from running local support groups, in the same way as has been seen with similar social care charities.

LC17 Presentation: ATC1452 (Haverhill) Sqn

/063 Commanding Officer Flt Lt Henry Bowden gave a short presentation setting out the benefits the Haverhill ATC had brought for young people in the town. There are currently 33 cadets aged between 12-20 years. Their HQ is very well used but also very full, so extra storage is essential in order to accommodate further growth and enable more activities. They were therefore requesting £3,500 towards a fully fitted ISO container with shelving and power to go on-site.

Sq Leader Wood, who was attending on behalf of Haverhill Town FC, offered to investigate the possibility of providing an ISO container from his RAF base. This could save the council considerable funds.

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy that a grant be approved, up to a value of £3,500, subject to any potential savings achieved by the RAF.

RESOLVED

LC17 Report on the Big Bash

/064 David Doughty, Chairman of the Haverhill Big Bash, gave a report on future plans for the event:

- a) Mr Doughty thanked the Town Council, particularly Nick Keeble, for the support given over the last few years to enable his committee to run the event. Over £20k had been given to local good causes.
- b) The group needs to build on the number of volunteers it has on the day.
- c) Mr Doughty will Chair the Big Bash committee for 2018.

The Committee noted the report and thanked the committee through Mr Doughty for the work they had done in putting on good events for the community and raising significant funds for good causes. Nick Keeble advised that a model of working for 2018 will be submitted to this committee in due course.

LC17 Determination of current grant applications

/065 The Committee determined the following grants

Organisation Name	Purpose of funding	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Haverhill Town FC	Purchase of goalposts	£1,939.20	£1,939.20

- a) Squadron Leader Woods gave a short presentation and answered questions in relation to the application by Haverhill Town FC. It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that the grant be given.
- b) The Committee was advised that Little Wonders Playgroup had now

secured the additional funds for their canopy and it was agreed funds could now be released.

RESOLVED

LC17 **Reports from Grant Recipients**

/066 The Clerk presented a report from

- a) Kids Out

The report was accepted by the Committee.

Reports from Haverhill Silver Band and Unit 23's 'Freefall' performance with local schools will be circulated.

LC17 **Report on past and future Arts Centre and Leisure Activities**

/067

- a) See appendix 2

In addition to the attached report, the Arts & Leisure Officer reported that funding for Community Fun Days remains a challenge. He thanked the previous County Councillors for the funding they had provided for events in 2017. It was noted that the ability to collect donations relies heavily on finding sufficient volunteers as the stewards needed to focus on the safety and security of the public.

- b) Councillors reported that they had heard many great comments about the summer events and thanked Nick Keeble and his team.
- c) Arts Centre hire income is strong. There is a high standard of artistes being booked at the moment and some great events in the pipeline, including the London Sinfonia working with young people.

LC17 **Projects Update**

/068

The Clerk provided a verbal update on community projects:

- a) Pump Track – the tendering process has closed with 4 bids received. The Haverhill South People's Forum (HSPF) committee will now review the bids to select the company to work with.
- b) Leiston Road shopping area improvements – The painting of the railings and replacing the old ones has all been completed. The Clerk outlined a proposed bid for funding from the HSPF for the Trust to lead a self-help project to decorate the houses in Harwood Terrace. The meeting endorsed the proposals and approved submission of the bid.
- c) Notice Boards – The meeting noted the report from Alisha Jenkins. The Clerk was asked to investigate adding East Town Park to the list of locations for notice boards..

CLERK

LC17 **Parish Handyman Report**

/069

- a) See Appendix 2

The meeting accepted the report of the Parish Handyman, noting the wide range of works he had undertaken and asked that the Clerk pass on to the Handyman their thanks and appreciation for his efforts.

- b) It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy, that the Memorandum of Understanding be signed, to take part in the SCC Community Self-help Scheme for Minor Highways Works.

RESOLVED

- c) It was proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that the promotion campaign to encourage businesses to report defects paving stones in the High Street.

RESOLVED

LC17 **Youth Strategy Report**

/070

The meeting accepted the report on the Youth Strategy.

LC17 Youth Skill Project Report

/071 The meeting asked that the Clerk pass on their thanks for an excellent report.

LC17 Date of Next Meeting

/072 It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 7th November 2017.

LC17 Closure

/073 The meeting was declared closed at 21:26pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix 1 - Public Forum

See LC17/062

Appendix 2 – Reports

LC17/049 Arts & Leisure Report

REPORT FOR ARTS & LEISURE MEETING OF 12 September 2017

EVENTS

Summer in Haverhill 2017



The 8 main outdoor events were completed safely and successfully. It must be acknowledged that attendance at the Big Day Out and the Wednesday Fun Days was down overall but the rain played a big factor. The Chalkstone Fun Day was postponed for a fortnight because of the weather. It is estimated that the 4 events were attended by 3500-4000 people. There were lots of positive comments about the continued provision of these free events around Haverhill and praise from activity providers for the Council for putting on the fun days.

The two tribute nights attracted very large crowds. There was some very positive feedback regarding the quality of the entertainment. Estimated attendance over the 2 events was 4000+.

The Town Council again supported the Summer Bash which attracted many thousands of people and raised record funds for local good causes.

Meanwhile the Arts Centre was buzzing with activity. 21 young people aged between 9 and 14 completed a week long film school, 80 musicians aged 9-18 took part in a 3 day music course which culminated in a concert attended by more than 150 people. Haverhill Flower Club had record numbers attend their Flower Festival in August. We successfully completed our 'shut down' week where all of the theatrical lighting and other equipment is tested along with the fixed wiring in the Centre.

We are putting together a SurveyMonkey snapshot survey to get an overview of the summer events.



Arts Centre Programme

The current programme from September to December 2017 is on sale. The Searchers are just about sold out and there are strong pre sales for John Illsley from Dire Straits, Jon Boden and Griff Rhys Jones. The Spring programme is currently under construction with performances by Marty Wilde and The Fureys already confirmed.

Dance schools

3 local dance schools are using the Arts Centre for performances in October and November.

There will be more than 340 dancers taking part and we are expecting audiences of approximately 1400 people. We work closely with the schools to ensure that we offer an affordable package meaning that the dancers have a chance to experience dancing in the theatre and we aim to enhance the performance by 'upgrading' the technical support and resources and offering the audience a professional service. The local amateur sector remains a very important part of the Arts Centre's programme.

Cinema attendances

Months	No of Screenings	Film Attendance (no of screenings)	Event Cinema Attendance (no of screenings)	Average per screening
May / June	22	466(19)	78 (3)	24.73
July / August	28	703 (24)	258 (5)	34.32
Sept/ October	26	522 (19)	344 (7)	33.31
Nov / December	13	502 (12)	149 (1)	50.07
January/February	30	1009 (25)	271(5)	42.66
March / April	25	978 (20)	172 (3)	50
May/ June	29	937 (23)	147 (6)	37.38
July/August	23	594 (17)	165 (6)	33

Attendance at regular film performances is well ahead of 2016.

Attendance at Event Cinema down but we have been presenting a far more challenging programme. Screenings from the Royal Opera House and Royal Ballet begin in September.

Forward Diary and happenings

Looking at bringing back The Haverhill Drama Festival in 2018

Co-promoting local band nights at Haverhill Arts Centre with PimJam

Haverhill Family History Group Exhibition – Haverhill People – Opens on 3 October 2017

Halloween Trail – East town Park – Friday 27 October

Family Christmas Night, Lights On and Fireworks – Friday 1 December

Any councillors available for stewarding / donation collecting, please contact Vicky or Nick.

Nick Keeble September 2017

LC17/069 Parish Handyman Report

07/06/2017	School Lane & Burton End	Cut back hedge/ trees obscuring signage & clean roadsigns	Cllr Q Fox	Completed	04/07/2017
26/06/2017	Town Hall Car Park	Sweep up glass around bottle bank	Resident	Completed	28/07/2017
30/06/2017	Bus Station	Clean shelters, clean phone box	Resident	Completed	28/07/2017
04/07/2017	Walkways between Bus Station and High Street	Clear weeds and litter.	Town Clerk	Swept but weeding still required	12/07/2017
04/07/2017	Keebles Yard	Clear weeds and fly-tipped litter.	Town Clerk	Fly-tipping cleared	12/07/2017
06/07/2017	Sturmer Road	Straighten 'Welcome to Haverhill' sign	Cllr Burns	Completed	28/07/2017
04/07/2017	School Lane & Burton End	Cut back overgrowth by sign on junction	Cllr Q Fox	cleared	11/07/2017
25/07/2017	Leiston Shops	Complete replacement of fence rails	Town Clerk	Replace old rails with new; final top-coat paint applied	21/08/2017
31/07/2017	Arts Centre carpark	Clear broken glass	Parish Handyman	Cleared	31/07/2017
31/07/2017	Bumpstead Road	Cut grass on verge	Parish Handyman	Cut	31/07/2017
01/08/2017	Bumpstead Road	Cut brambles off of path	Parish Handyman	completed	01/08/2017
01/08/2017	Keebles Yard	Remove fly-tipped rubbish	Parish Handyman	Completed	01/08/2017
01/08/2017	Hollands Road	Cut grass outside WS College	Parish Handyman		
02/08/2017	Arts Centre	Cut grass at rear	Parish Handyman	Completed	02/08/2017
02/08/2017	Jubilee Walk & Quakers lane	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Completed	02/08/2017
02/08/2017	Leiston Road	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Completed	02/08/2017
07/08/2017	Reeds lane	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Completed	07/08/2017
08/08/2017	Keebles Yard	Remove fly-tipped rubbish	Parish Handyman	Completed	08/08/2017
14/08/2017	Keebles Yard	Weeded	Parish Handyman	Completed	14/08/2017
14/08/2017	Leiston Centre	Remove fly-tipped rubbish	Assist Town Clerk	Completed	14/08/2017
14/08/2017	High Street	Remove fly posting	Parish Handyman	Completed	14/08/2017
15/08/2017	Jet garage, Duddery Hill	Clear broken glass	Resident	Completed	15/08/2017

17/08/2017	Bus Station	Clean shelters, clean phone box	Parish Handyman	Completed	17/08/2017
17/08/2017	Quakers Lane	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Completed	17/08/2017
17/08/2017	High Street	Clean telephone box outside Arts Centre	Parish Handyman	Completed	17/08/2017
17/08/2017	Jubilee Walk	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Completed	17/08/2017
21/08/2017	Arts Centre	Cut grass at rear	Parish Handyman	completed	21/08/2017
21/08/2017	Bevan House	weeding at the front	Parish Handyman	Completed	21/08/2017
21/08/2017	Leiston Centre	Bins overflowing	Mary Argent	Cleared some bags and WD40 the lock to facilitate security	22/08/2017
23/08/2017	Brybank Rd shops	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Cleared	23/08/2017
23/08/2017	Park Road to Cambridge Way	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Cleared	23/08/2017
24/08/2017	Arrendene Estate	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Cleared	24/08/2017
24/08/2017	Howe Road park and cycle path	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Cleared	24/08/2017
24/08/2017	Howe Rd	Cleared bottles into bottle bank	Parish Handyman	Cleared	24/08/2017
24/08/2017	Walkway	Litter pick from Arrendene to Tesco	Parish Handyman	Cleared	24/08/2017
24/08/2017	Strasb'rg Square	litter pick	Parish Handyman	Cleared	24/08/2017
25/08/2017	N. Croft car park	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Cleared	25/08/2017
25/08/2017	East Town park	Litter pick ditches at entrance	Parish Handyman	Cleared	25/08/2017
25/08/2017	Railway walk	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Cleared	25/08/2017
25/08/2017	Tesco roundabout	Removed old "loose chippings" signs from lamp columns	Parish Handyman	Cleared	25/08/2017
28/08/2017	Arts Centre	Weeded the frontage	Parish Handyman	Cleared	28/08/2017
28/08/2017	Arts Centre Care park	Litter picked & cleared broken glass around bottle bank	Parish Handyman	Cleared	28/08/2017
28/08/2017	Leiston Centre	litter pick	Parish Handyman	Cleared	28/08/2017
28/08/2017	High street alleyway adjacent Costa Coffee	Cleared litter and broken glass	Parish Handyman	Cleared	28/08/2017

LC17/070 Youth Strategy Update

Recommendation	Last Action Reported	Update
1 – On The Spot Van	Team now up to 3 x staff. Level 1 & 2 training for youth works has been sourced and dates being found to deliver this. Visited Brandon on a goodwill visit at the request of the local Council. Now quoted for selling this service to them over the summer.	The OTS van team provided a programme of visits and activity across the summer holidays.
2 – Social Media Project	No change to report	
3 – Youth Skills Project	See Item 14 report below	
4 – Skate Park	HCSA have written formally to confirm they do not wish to pursue proposals regarding siting an urban sports facility at New Croft. We are investigating alternatives.	No further action to report
5 – Extend Arts Centre	No change to report	
6 – Creative Arts Strategy	The first project, on film-making, is starting soon.	This was held as a 10-week course during the summer (see Arts Manager's report)
7 – Chill-out Zone at Leisure Centre	Thursday evening for older ages not being well attended, but very good numbers for the Tuesday evening for young people and the new equipment being well used	
8 – Councillor Involvement	Ongoing	

LC17/071 Youth Skills Manager Project Report

I have been in post now for 4 years and I feel my role has developed over this time to encompass the ever changing needs of young people. It has been necessary to reflect on my role and to decide how best it encourages the youth of Haverhill to reach their full potential. Having focused on apprenticeship opportunities to help increase employability for young people in Haverhill, I am now seeing a lot of repeat business from employers which is far less time consuming as time has been spent previously setting up the support system. So the apprenticeship opportunities are still presenting themselves but this is now not the main focus of my role as they seem to develop quite naturally and need a lot less input from me.

It has become very apparent that an increasing number of young people are suffering from low mood and anxiety and this is affecting their education and their progress in many different areas of their life. Taking this into consideration I feel some of my energy should therefore be focused on offering a service that benefits the needs of this particular group of emerging young people. It is essential that the needs of these young people are addressed and they are supported to increase their confidence and they are directed to take positive steps to ensure their mental health does not deteriorate. The young people who are referred to our programmes are those that have been identified by schools and agencies as most at risk. We need to continue to engage and support them

to ensure they take part in projects where they are encouraged to improve their social skills and engage with their local communities.

Apprenticeships

Currently our apprenticeship opportunities to date are higher than this time last year, although there seems less new interest from businesses in general. I put this down to the huge changes in apprenticeships nationwide. New qualifications are still waiting to be finalised in some business areas. With the introduction of the Levy there are still un-answered questions. After discussing this with local FE Colleges it is forecasted these numbers will increase in April 2018.

As stated our project has now been running for 4 years starting September 2013. We have during this time advertised over 233 apprenticeship vacancies. We achieved 50 opportunities in our first year, 52 in our second year, 60 in the 3rd year and now 71 at the close of this 4th year. So overall pleasing results that I feel have definitely benefited both young people and our local businesses.

Schools

I feel working in partnership and having the appropriate contacts at Samuel Ward Academy really benefits the students and other outside agencies that need support to break into the school and offer their services. To be recognised as a worthy service has taken time, I now feel that our project and what the schools gain from it is truly valued. I have met with students from Samuel Ward Academy and managed to support them to take next steps. We have successfully managed to match some students to local vacancies. I will continue to support these students once they have left school. This is an important transition time and often students can feel isolated when they are no longer part of the school set up and may not be part of any other service or organisation. They will need advice and guidance and support on how to take next steps especially if they are struggling with their chosen progression path.

Rob Maidment Enterprise Project

The winners of the Rob Maidment Enterprise Project were again a team from Castle Manor Academy. The teams were given £50 and tasked with making the highest profit. "Team Interconnected" from Castle Manor won again and managed to keep hold of the Rob Maidment Trophy, donated by Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, which stands proudly in their reception.

Young people

I am currently working with a cross section of young people with varying needs. I have supported this year's current school leavers to apply for further education courses and taken some to interviews that would otherwise have struggled to attend.

I have supported young people with job searching, work experience placements, job applications and developing CV's for those looking for employment. We have had some very pleasing results.

3 young people that attended Adult Signpost secured jobs in the last 6 weeks. 2 of these young people had additional needs. An additional 8 young people were matched to jobs/apprenticeships in the last 6 weeks. During the summer holiday our Signpost Projects alone engaged with over 40 young people on a weekly basis. These young people were referred to our programme by school nurses, counsellors and the safeguarding team from our local schools. It has been recognised that these young people are at risk of having mental health problems and/or suffering from low mood.

Our sessions were busy and again we received some excellent feedback both from our students and their parents.

Signpost Projects

Adult 16-24 years

Our adult Signpost group at the moment are attending the Jubilee Allotments. We are working in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society and Suffolk Mind. The group currently consists of between 6-10 attendees who pop in and out of the sessions, sometimes depending on the weather! We definitely have a strong back bone of regular attendees that have taken a real pride in the development of this area and are fully committed in making it a space that others can enjoy. The group are currently working on a small pond to encourage wildlife into the area. There is a tree seating area with chamomile grass to encourage people to sit and enjoy the fresh air and make the most of the wonderful aroma of all that's growing around them. The young people are now reaping the results of the planting that was done earlier and are picking and taking fresh produce home and according to some are eating more healthily because of it.

Case Study Adult Signpost

BT, is a 19 years old autistic young man he attended his primary school and middle schools in Haverhill and went on to finish his education in a residential upper school specialising in Autism, in Wales. He returned to Haverhill and felt extremely isolated he had no friends or interests other than playing games online. He lived with his dad who travelled with his work and so some weeks he saw no one other than the Job Centre Coach. He was job searching and applying for employment without much luck. His father felt the Job Centre were pressurising BT into finding work and not supporting him enough. He shared that BT had admitted that he had suicidal thoughts and felt isolated and very down and couldn't see a future for himself.

The Job Centre referred BT to me; he was nervous, introverted and answered questions with one word answers or a shrug of the shoulders. After agreeing to pick him up from his home address and meeting with him weekly, on a one to one basis he seemed more relaxed around me. After a couple of months he agreed, if somewhat hesitantly, to come along to our Adult Signpost sessions. He needed lots of persuasion and his attendance was very patchy initially. He slowly started to form relationships with others that were attending the group and 1 attendee happened to live just across the road from him; they started arriving and leaving together which encouraged both of them to attend more regularly. After much persuasion they agreed to attend short training courses in Haverhill. Again I met up with him several times when he wavered and was struggling to attend these courses. We developed a CV for him and supported him to apply for some vacancies. He managed to secure some taster days and work experience which helped his confidence grow rapidly. With his new found confidence it was important to secure some employment and I felt for the first time since meeting him he could possibly be ready for work. A local company contacted me to see if I could recommend someone for employment and after meeting BT they decided they would like to employ him on a trial basis. He is now 6 weeks into his employment and doing well. The process from the initial meeting to employment took 17 months. It was a slow process but his progress has been successful. He has reached 2 personal goals since I have meet him. 1 by securing full time employment and 2, losing three stone in weight. He reports he is enjoying his job has got to know others and feels the best he has ever felt.

Junior Signpost 13-16 years

Is aimed at improving the well-being of young people 13-16 who are suffering from anxiety or are struggling to form relationships.

We run 3 sessions per week in total over the summer holidays. We were told by many of our young people that this is the only activity they did over the week and indeed during the whole of the summer holidays. Many stated it was all they looked forward to all week.

We had a variety of sessions it was good to see some students really excel in some activities. We had 2 young people who especially enjoyed yoga and seemed to have a natural talent for this. It was very pleasing to see the realisation in their faces that they had taken part in something new and had shown a real flair for it. Both asked after if we could repeat these sessions. They shared how they had enjoyed the meditation part of it as well and for these young people who have problems with anxiety and panic attacks the skill of meditation could prove invaluable in the future.

Case Study Junior Signpost

AL was referred by her school originally to our sessions. She found it difficult to communicate and often she opened her mouth but nothing other than a grunt came out. She would go completely red and just disappear into another room.

AL is one of 8 children she is the eldest at 14 years old and helps to look after her siblings. She has been taken out of school by her parents and is being home schooled AL is 14. A tells us that she really enjoys our sessions as she manages to meet up with people her own age as since leaving school approximately 4 months ago she has had no contact with anyone other than her family. She has loved trying out new activities and is surprised how good she is at some of them. She particularly loved yoga and it was noted that she was naturally talented by the teacher, who praised her for her efforts. The teacher shared with AL that she felt that AL should pursue yoga as a hobby. AL has asked us to see if we can organise further yoga sessions. We are in the process of looking into this.

We have noticed that AL no longer grunts and now freely talks. She will often now initiate a conversation with others, which is great to witness after spending so much time avoiding conversations. Her body language is far more confident and although we are amazed how far she has come I have a feeling she will continue to progress if we get to work with her in the future.

Male Junior Signpost

We were successful in running our signpost for boys over the summer holidays. We targeted this group as we felt we had very little involvement with young males to date. The sessions were designed to cater specifically to them, and consisted of golf, archery, den building, team building, painting technique of marbling. They all voted golf as their favourite session and so we repeated this for the final session. They thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills and surprised themselves with their growing ability. Our schemes of work across the programmes will vary depending on the said group and their needs. We are trying to make them interesting and varied and to get value for money.

Case Study Signpost 4 Boys

GB is a 13 year old young man referred to us by his school, to benefit specifically from meeting other young people. Whilst on the surface he appears extroverted and expressive, inside he harbours

ongoing anger issues - which severely affects his ability to make friends. GB shared that his mother had recently died and he was fairly new to the area. His father worked full time and the only time he engaged with others during the summer holidays was at our sessions.

GB often acted unwilling to engage in activities, deciding instead to sit out in protest; however, every session he was eventually persuaded to join in and often admitted later how much he enjoyed the activities we offered. He especially enjoyed the golf and asked for further details, sharing that he was going to ask his father to take him to golf at the weekends. Whilst he struggled to interact positively with the other young people we noticed a noticeable improvement by the final session. He didn't travel to the sessions on the mini bus, as others complained about his aggressive behaviour towards them, but his behaviour improved and the last 2 sessions he was proud to be allowed to travel on the minibus where he behaved in a suitable manner.

He has started to build some relationships with others, I look forward to these progressing into friendships if he has the chance to continue attending. We have also noted that GB is probably obese and eating was very important to him in the sessions. We would like to be given the opportunity to tackle this wellbeing issue in future sessions.

Looking ahead

This September, many young people will be starting their new journeys in different settings and consequently some will have made choices that have not worked out for them. So September will be spent supporting those whose choices haven't gone to plan and are looking for alternative pathways. We will also come across the "last minuters" who up until September were just happy to enjoy their summer holidays and now are panicking that they have no plans going forward. Many young people will no longer be students of schools, if they are not eligible or not wanting to stay on at a 6th form, they can become isolated. It is essential these young people are picked up so they do not add to the NEET statistics. We will be holding job clubs regularly over the coming weeks to ensure young people can pop in for guidance and support, we will run these with Suffolk County Council Intensive Support Workers out of the Media Hub in the Art Centre.

I look forward to linking up with the new Social Prescribing Project as it seems to have a lot of the values and focus that Adult Signpost has. We are looking to achieve the same end outcomes, which is to have healthy people who are ready to secure employment and add value to our town.

We will continue to run our Signpost Projects as long as we have funding available. We still have a waiting list of referrals waiting for places on the forthcoming sessions. People in the community are starting to recognise this project and really value the difference it is making to the people attending. It's amazing that socialising with others and taking part in activities in a place that feels safe has had such fabulous results. To continue to enhance the work already done and to add to this we will need to secure some further funding. October is pencilled in for the delivery of further sessions. One will concentrate on further developing those we have already worked with and the other with a new crop of young people with wellbeing issues.

I would by late September like to have an offer of a selection of short programmes to support those who have fallen off their college courses or out of education. We will need to continually persuade training providers to offer a suitable local offer of further education/training in local facilities. This will help to break down barriers to learning and encourage further learning to take place. This will in turn up skill our young people and lead them to securing better opportunities.