

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 7th November 2017 at 7.35pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, Haverhill

Present: Councillor J Burns (Chairman)
Councillor A Brown
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor B Robbins

Apologies: Councillor P Fox (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor D Roach
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Williams
Councillor W Yang

Absent: Councillor P Hanlon

In Attendance: Councillor J Crooks
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor I McLatchy
Vicky Phillips, Assistant Town Clerk
Nick Keeble, Arts and Leisure Manager
Alisha Jenkins, Office Administrator

4 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 Apologies for Absence

/074 The above apologies were noted. Colin Poole also gave his apologies.

LC17 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

/075

Cllr B McLatchy	Non-Pecuniary Interest	LC17/081 Member of H&D Town Twinning Association
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LC17 Minutes of the Last Meeting

/076

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy, that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2017 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

ACTION

LC17 Matters Arising

/077

- a. There were no matters arising.
- b. To note correspondence received from Christopher Oakes, Treasurer, 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron regarding their recent Grant Application. After investigation it was confirmed that surplus ISO containers were not available. It was proposed the grant of £3,500 be approved. Proposed Councillor A Brown, seconded B McLatchy

RESOLVED

LC17 Public Forum

/078

See Appendix 1

LC17 Report on past and future Arts Centre and Leisure Activities

/079

See appendix 2

NK read through his report, the bucket collection at the Halloween trail raised £1,127 which was up on last year.

Panto sales were well ahead on last year, even before the major mailing has been sent out. For the first night of the Panto, all tickets will be the same price.

The Town Council will be working closely with the Borough again on the Family Christmas Night and Lights Switch On. Special guest Bobby Dazzler will be switching on the lights. Not note, the Christmas Lights will have been slightly extended this year to include Peas Hill.

This year the theme for the fireworks will be the Aladdin soundtrack.

This December, the Arts Centre will be trying out a new Party Night event.

The Winter in Haverhill Brochure has now been produced and will be sent out to all schools included in with the Panto mailing.

Councillor B McLatchy said how lucky Haverhill was and congratulated Nick Keeble.

Nick also reported that this October Half Term was very successful and mentioned that November was our busiest month.

Also, John Illsley had been very successful in bringing in lots of new people in from outside of Haverhill.

The Arts Centre Bar and Café now have contactless card machines and the Box Office is soon to follow.

Nick asked that if any Councillors were available for stewarding to contact him.

LC17 Determination of current grant applications

/080

The Committee determined the following grants

- a. Haverhill Summer Bash budget grant.

Nick Keeble read through the report attached, appendix 3.

The committee agreed that the Haverhill Summer Bash be added into the budget for an annual grant

Organisation Name	Purpose of funding	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Haverhill & District U3A	Cost of hiring Haverhill Arts Centre to advance the education and recreation of its members who are local retired Senior Citizens	£300	£300

The Voluntary Network	To provide community transport for any local residents, who do not have their own transport or cannot access public transport. Funding to continue with community car service to provide transport for the increased demand for hospital and medical appointments.	£3000	Deferred See below
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The Voluntary Network to be asked to supply more financial information and a decision to be deferred to Full Council meeting on 27th November.
VP to contact them to ask for banks statements, accounts or reports.
Proposed Councillor B McLatchy, seconded Councillor A Brown
RESOLVED

VP

LC17 **Reports from Grant Recipients**

/081

The Clerk presented reports from:

- a) H&D Town Twinning Association
- b) Haverhill Art Group
- c) Haverhill Cricket Club
- d) Stepping Stones Childcare & Education CIC
- e) Suffolk Family History (Haverhill) Group

The reports were accepted by the Committee.

LC17 **Projects Update**

/082

The Assistant Clerk read out a verbal update on community projects:

- a) Pump Track – following the tender process over the summer, two companies were invited to meet the Haverhill South People’s Forum (HSPF) and Colin Pool on site. There is now a preferred bidder and this is awaiting approval by The Peoples Health Lottery Trust. A bidder will then be appointed, followed by a moratorium period to allow an opportunity for other bidders to appeal the decision. Following this, a planning application will be put through.
- b) Leiston Road shopping area improvements – The Clerk is still waiting to hear from Community Action Suffolk as to whether the HSPF have approved the grant application for Harewood Terrace.
- c) Notice Boards – No action to report.

LC17 **Parish Handyman Report**

/083

- a) See Appendix 4
The meeting accepted the report of the Parish Handyman.
- b) A budget of £700, £350 for hire of Scissor Lift and £350 to hire a graffiti removing machine from Sudbury Town Council, be considered. The Clerk had e-mailed Ian Gallin asking if the Borough’s Legal Department had confirmed that Sturmer Arches belonged to the Borough and whether the Town Council could invoice the Borough for the costs. There had been no reply to date, CP to ask L Cocker to chase.
The committee approved this budget.
- c) Obscured signage along the Bypass.
The committee were asked to consider a suggestion from Colin Poole that a Temporary Event Notice be applied for so that the By-Pass could be closed for a couple of hours on a Sunday morning to enable safe access for Volunteers to cut back the overgrowth over the signage.

CP

CP

The committee agreed that the Clerk should explore this further.
Proposed Councillor A Brown, seconded Councillor B McLatchy
RESOLVED

LC17 Youth Strategy Report

/084 The meeting accepted the report on the Youth Strategy. Nick Keeble informed the committee that Tom Ogdon was leaving and that strands that had been worked on did not get dropped and to ensure that this continued.

LC17 Youth Skill Project Report

/085 The meeting accepted the report on the Youth Skills Project.

LC17 Date of Next Meeting

/086 It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 16th January 2018.

LC17 Closure

/087 The meeting was declared closed at 8.50pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date

Appendix 1 - Public Forum

LC17/078

Mr Wendell reported that the men's group at St Nicholas Hospice has now moved to the Arts Centre.

David Hart reported:

1. About the rapidly diminishing availability of commercial facilities in the evenings. Schools were varying the times that they were available. Groups hiring the school were now having to find alternatives as the new earlier opening times were not convenient for members.

Cllr B McLatchy remarked that schools were closing earlier due to security and caretaking issues.

NK advised that the Town Council now have the Leiston Community Centre, which is available for hire.

Cllr A Brown suggested the Town Council could survey current and future community space availability.

2. Mr Hart also expressed concern about the situation that the Old Independent Church is in. The church is a crucial and iconic landmark in Haverhill and also houses an organ which would be need to be put in storage in Stowmarket. Mr Hart suggested that the church building could become a premier concert hall and that the building at the back of the church could be used as a community venue, the church was part of the Victorian heritage in the town and the town must get a handle on these buildings. Mr Hart asked if the Town Council could help in anyway, or if maybe ONE Haverhill could have some involvement.

Councillor J Burns:

Could the Clerk contact the Minister to request a briefing note to present to the Town Council. ONE Haverhill Culture Strand could also look into this.

NK asked if the church had looked into the possibility that there was a 'Deed of Gift' on the building? Founding documents could have conditions set and that the History Group could look into this.

Councillor Burns has asked that once there is more information, that this be brought back to the next Leisure Committee meeting.

Appendix 2 – Reports
LC17/079 - Arts & Leisure Report

REPORT FOR ARTS & LEISURE MEETING OF 7 November 2017

Halloween Trail 2017



The Halloween Trail took place in East Town Park on Friday 27 October. A steward with a clicker clicked 3500 times (although a number of people do go round twice). There were more than 20 volunteers assisting including members of the Friends of the East Town Park and the Army Cadets. The bucket collection of voluntary donations was just over £1100. It was completed safely with perfect weather and has received some very positive feedback. Some examples from Facebook are below.

.. it was a brilliant event. Haverhill is so lucky to have evenings like this.

It was brilliant my 2 year old loved it especially the fire eaters! My 4 year old wasn't too sure but today thinks she is great for being a brave girl! Just enough scare and spook for their ages the 'monsters' gauged it well with individual groups! Will definitely be returning next year

Brilliant! We were expecting a few tacky decorations hanging from trees! I ended up spending the night with my son and daughter sleeping in my bed! They haven't stopped talking about it all morning. We had such fun.

THANKYOU to you ALL for such an amazing evening!!!! It was our first time visiting the Halloween trial and it was brilliant!! We really appreciate all the time and effort that was clearly put into the planning process....

Our Town Council are amazing they do so much for the Town especially for the kids in Summer hols and on occasions like this. Also music nights on the square sat nights through the summer, all free I might add.

WINTER IN HAVERHILL The Winter in Haverhill brochure is currently being printed and will be available at the meeting. The 'Queen Street Christmas Market' will be in place on 1st and 2nd December.

Friday 1 October 5.30pm-8.00pm FAMILY CHRISTMAS NIGHT. 6.30pm LIGHTS SWITCH ON. 8.00pm FIREWORKS

Saturday 2 October 10.30am-3.30pm FESTIVE FARM AND ENTERTAINMENT plus EXTRA CRAFT STALLS

OCTOBER HALF TERM - We often talk about the diversity of the programme that the Town Council promotes and the usage of the Arts Centre. As a snapshot, here are some facts and figures about October half term week.

- 220 children and parents attended classical music concerts introducing classical music and instruments to preschool children,
- 6 cinema screenings including 3 children's film, 1 mainstream movie, 1 Ballet live from Sadlers Wells and a look at the Art of the Venetian painter Canaletto.
- 18 young people age 9-16 completing a 2 day course on making their own Youtube channel.
- Live events were Wrestling, a gig by a 1970s rock band and a concert by an acclaimed acoustic guitarist.
- In addition there were two meetings from health support groups, 1 public consultation meeting, 3 meetings of local organisations, 1 Council meeting & a course for unemployed people to gain a qualification
- Plus we had repairs to the main hall floor, electrical works and servicing of the boilers and the air conditioning so we can turn the heating on for the forecast cold weather.

In all there were 900 audience members, 31 performers, 50 people attending social meetings, 39 people carrying out Local Authority work, 35 people learning skills and 3 tradesmen doing what they were asked. In terms of artforms the events incorporated classical music, ballet, fine art, digital arts, rock music, acoustic music, painting and wrestling.

When you add in the Halloween Trail, all in all, it was a very busy and productive week.

Arts Centre Programme

The current programme from September to December 2017 is half way through. We had a couple of cancellations – The Searchers were sold out but one of them was ill so we have rescheduled for February 2018. Sell outs include Griff Rhys Jones, John Illsley, Big 10 Ska Night and Forbidden Nights. The Spring programme is currently under construction includes Marty Wilde, The Fureys, comedian Tom Allen as well as performances from Centre Stage Company, Samuel Ward Academy and Stoke College.

Arts Centre Update

The Bar and Café now have the capability for people to pay by card, including contactless. A new terminal is on order for the Box Office which will include contactless payment facility.

A new website for the Arts Centre will be developed in the New Year. Following a comprehensive tendering process the choice came down to two closely matched companies. A successful design company has been chosen and discussions are currently underway to finalise the contract.

The backstage areas are being redecorated over the next few months.

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
Sept/October	26	763 (22)	210 (4)	37.42

Attendance at regular film performances is continuing to be well ahead of 2016 currently up 32%, income is currently up 26% over the same period.

Forward Diary and happenings

Family Christmas Night, Lights On and Fireworks – Friday 1 December - Any councillors available for stewarding / donation collecting, please contact Nick.

Haverhill Beer Weekend 2018 Friday 4 – Sunday 6 May

Armed Forces Day 2018 – Saturday 30 June

Historic Vehicle Rally 2018– Sunday 1 July (subject to site availability)

Summer Bash 2018 – Sunday 15 July

Big Day Out 2018 – Wednesday 25 July

Halloween Trail 2018 – Friday 26 October

Family Christmas Night 2018 – Friday 7 December

Nick Keeble November 2017

Haverhill Summer Bash 2017

Over the past 5 years the Haverhill Summer Bash has helped Haverhill based good causes raise over £20,000.

Background

Following the demise of the Haverhill Show in 2012, Haverhill Town Council has been working with a committee of local businesspeople and volunteers to develop an event that raises money for local organisations and charities. Over the past 5 years, the responsibility for the administration and finances of the event have passed over from Haverhill Town Council to the Committee who have become constituted and have been developing skills and knowledge in order to take the event on. In 2017, Haverhill Town Council obtained the licence and insurance for the events and provided logistical support in advance and on the day. As we are at the end of the 5 year plan to 'devolve the event' this report seeks to set out how the Haverhill Summer Bash Committee are planning to move forward and develop.

Committee Members.

Our committee recognises that it too needs to grow and have specific people in roles such as Finance, Secretary, Publicity, Volunteers. We already have a cross section of the public, business owners and now also a teacher but some of us take on multiple roles and this is something we wish to avoid in the future. We are specifically looking to gain more skills by inviting more members to the team who can fit the areas that we need developing. David Doughty will be Chairman for just one more year. We have already started discussions to find a successor from the business community /education sector to be the next Chair of the Committee

Volunteers.

We believe that we have helped to raise the morale of the town and look forward to capitalising on this to grow a bigger team of volunteers which is crucial if we are to become an independent event. We started with just a handful of volunteers in 2013 but have seen that slowly increase with the help of the public and the local Scouts and Guides, The Women's institute and the U3A. Haverhill Air Cadets are also keen to come on board to help on the day. We will always ask the public to suggest good causes to help but will be asking any group that might benefit to supply us with two people on the day as volunteers to strengthen our numbers. We have helped six to eight groups each year and so this should bring in an additional 12 - 16 helpers.

Moving Forward

While we are looking to take on the full organisation of the show, we feel that we will still need on the day support from the Town Council for the next 3 years to fully understand how

the event needs to be run. We will look to lessen the reliance on Town County staff by taking on the set up of the event and the technical support over the next 3 years.

Developing the Show.

Our immediate plan for the show is to have a big publicity campaign, (mainly on social media but also including the local press), to rebrand the show and bring it back as "The Haverhill Show". We believe that this will help us gain sponsorship more easily from the business community. We will continue to invite good causes to have a pitch on the day, promote local talent and use local services as much as possible.

Becoming a Charity

Whilst we are very grateful for the help and assistance of the Town Council since our start, we do wish to be an independent organisation and are currently looking into Charity status.

Funding

While we have been successful in gaining sponsorship from businesses to pay for attractions at the show, the core costs to pay for the insurances, hire, refuse collection, first aid and other logistical costs have been paid for by the Town Council .

The Haverhill Summer Bash are asking the Town Council to consider them as a core funded organisation for the next three years. We are asking for an annual grant of £2000 which would cover the costs currently being paid for by Haverhill Town Council and some additional support for the infrastructure of the show. This money would be ringfenced and would not form part of the funds that are distributed to the charities and organisations.

Thank you

The Summer Bash Committee would like to place on record their thanks to the Town Council for their support. We realise that we would not have been able to stage the and develop what event without the guidance and staffing. We feel proud of what we have been able to achieve for the Town and hope that this request is considered favourably.

The Haverhill Summer Bash Committee
October 2017

Appendix 4

LC17/084 Parish Handyman Report

05/09/2017	Arts Centre	Clear weeds from pits	Nick Keeble	Weedkilled & Strimmed	06/10/2017	Y
06/09/2017	Crowland Road	Cut back verge on bank and trim bushes	Cllr P Fox	Done as best as can be done	07/09/2017	Y
06/09/2017	Keebles Yard	Remove fly-tipped rubbish	Parish Handyman	Cleared	06/09/2017	Y
06/09/2017	Axa car park	Remove weeds at frontage	Town Clerk			
07/09/2017	New Cangle School	Cut back overgrowth between Waters Edge and Chapple Drive	Cllr Q Fox	Cut back off path	08/09/2017	Y
07/09/2017	High Street	Remove flyers re table-top sale	Parish Handyman	Cleared	07/09/2017	Y
15/09/2017	Haverhill	survey grit bins and report back on content levels	Town Clerk			
15/09/2017	Cleales Car Park	turn and straighten Exit sign	Town Clerk	Straightened	25/09/2017	Y
15/09/2017	Quakers Lane	Clear flytipped rubbish	Town Clerk	Cleared	25/09/2017	Y
15/09/2017	Argyll Court	Clear litter, detrius and weeds	Town Clerk	Litter picked, weeded & cleared detrius	10/09/2017	Y
15/09/2017	Clements Estate	Clean signage on roads and street nameplates on footways	Town Clerk	Started	10/10/2017	
17/09/2017	Homefield Road	Cut back growth blocking road sign at eastern end and clean	Cllr J Burns	Growth cut back	27/09/2017	Y
17/09/2017	Park Road by Flood Park	Cut back growth blocking sign pointing towards the Clements Estate and clean	Cllr J Burns	Cut back growth around Chimswell sign and roundabout signs, cleaned signs	26/09/2017	Y
25/09/2017	Leiston Community Centre	unwrap new tables at Community Centre	Town Clerk	Completed	25/09/2017	Y
28/09/2017	Lower Downslade Car park/Francis Close	Remove old sign for Crown Health Centre	Cllr J Burns	Removed	03/10/2017	Y
28/09/2017	Arts Centre	Fill holes and sand back/paint the display boards in the gallery	Town Clerk	Completed	02/10/2017	Y
09/10/2017	Haverhill	Remove circus flyposting	Parish Handyman	Completed	09/10/2017	Y
09/10/2017	Hollands Road	Clear weeds in front of Stylize & Vans 4 U	Parish Handyman	Completed	09/10/2017	Y
09/10/2017	Brybank Road shops	Litter pick	Parish Handyman	Cleared	09/10/2017	Y
10/10/2017	High Street	Remove wrestling posters flyposted around town	Town Clerk	Cleared	10/10/2017	Y
13/10/2017	Eringshausen Road	Cut back overhanging trees both sides of the road to enable pedestrians to pass freely and uncover signs. Clear weeds and detrius from crossing points and benches	Town Clerk	Cut back over footpath, cleared crossings and branches sheilding signage	17/10/2017	Y

13/10/2017	Manor Road jct with Eringshausen Road	Clear lichen off street nameplate legs, take fallen signpost column to Homefield Road	Town Clerk	Complete	18/10/2017	Y
13/10/2017	Meeting Walk	Clear bench at Eringshausen end and turn litter bin at Hamlet Road end	Town Clerk	Bin cannot be turned, so bushes cut back to allow access	17/10/2017	Y
13/10/2017	High Street	Clear obscene graffiti from Nat West bank windows	E Goody	Cleared 14:30	13/10/2017	Y
16/10/2017	Arts Centre & Leiston	Cut grass	Parish Handyman	Cut	16/10/2017	Y

LC17/084 Youth Strategy Update

Recommendation	Last Action Reported	Update
1 – On The Spot Van	The OTS van team provided a programme of visits and activity across the summer holidays.	Visits to the Clements Estate have been increased in response to concerns about behaviour on the estate, particularly around the Leiston Road shops.
2 – Social Media Project	No change to report	
3 – Youth Skills Project	See Item 14 report below	
4 – Skate Park	No further action to report	
5 – Extend Arts Centre	No change to report	
6 – Creative Arts Strategy	The first project, on film-making, was held 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	

LC17/085 Youth Skills Manager Project Report

Youth Skills Update (September 17/October 17)

September and October have been a busy months supporting young people who have left it late to plan their future pathway or those that have changed their mind on what pathway they want to take.

I have been involved with our local colleges, schools and employers trying to support transitions between them and our young people. It is essential that our young people are following a suitable pathway and if they find themselves on a pathway that isn't suitable they get the assistance to change it, to ensure they don't become a NEET statistic.

It's good to see numerous part time vacancies available at this current time some being seasonal vacancies and some being created by new business moving in to our town. Time has been spent helping our young people apply for these vacancies and helping them develop good interview techniques.

We have on offer two short full time educational courses in Haverhill. We have spent time ensuring those on our caseload that are suitable, are currently studying on these part time courses. We are offering pastoral support during this time.

We continue to support an increasing number of young people who are suffering from low mood and anxiety. Our referral numbers again are growing we will endeavour to work with as many as possible in the coming months without watering the service down too much.

Apprenticeships

We continue to try to match young people to vacancies. If a young person approaches us and there is no vacancy in their chosen area we will speak to local businesses and try to encourage them to meet the young person with a view to offering a position. If there is no position we try to organise some work experience to help increase the young person's skills in an area they want to work in and thus enhancing their CV.

As stated our project has now been running for 4 years starting September 2013. We have during this time advertised over 240 apprenticeship vacancies.

Schools

I attended the Suffolk Skills Show along with Samuel Ward School it was good to meet some students and talk to them about their future plans and aspirations whilst walking around and being informed on training opportunities available in Suffolk and meeting possible future employers in the Suffolk area.

I attended a Job fair at Sam Ward and got to share the latest news on apprenticeships to all year groups and held an assembly with year 11's.

I went along to a post year 11 pathway evening at Castle Manor and spoke to parents and students about the apprenticeship route as one pathway available when they finish their education at CMA.

I met with some students who were attending 6th form who were not enjoying it and wanted to change pathways quickly to allow them to get on a September course at FE colleges these young people had identified that they needed to act quickly to ensure they didn't spend a year doing something that was not for them and then wasting a year of studies. I come across students that didn't have any plans in place for this academic year and we managed to identify a suitable way forward for them.

I recently spent the day at the Churchill School to share information on apprenticeships with both parents and students. I look forward to supporting some of these students in the future.

Young people

I am currently working with a cross section of young people with varying needs.

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. We have also had regular Job Hub sessions in the media hub on a weekly pop in basis.

Training Courses

The short courses available in Haverhill at the moment are being run by West Suffolk College and Inspire Suffolk. Both courses are full and we hope to see our young people developing new skills to ensure they are successful with their next pursuit.

Traineeships (WSC)

A traineeship is a course for 16-24 year olds with work experience that gets you ready for work or an apprenticeship. It can last up to 3 months. It includes studying to improve your Maths and English as well as improving your employability skills.

Fast Forward (Inspire)

The programme is centred on personal progression helping young adults 19+ to get work ready and find employment. The programme consists of teamwork skills, community spirit, mock-interview workshops, career planning and skills assessment, job search skills and submitting applications for active job roles within the area. The main focus is to help identify and/or find employment, education or training to progress onto on completion of the course.

Signpost Projects

Adult 16-24 years

Funding for the Suffolk Mind Jubilee Allotment has now finished as they want to concentrate on their allotment near the cemetery in Haverhill. As the young people have really bought into this project it has been agreed that with the direction of the Royal Horticultural Society once a month we will continue to up keep this area. As the young people will need to be supervised I have agreed to oversee this on a weekly basis. We look forward to enhancing the area even further and maybe even holding a community event on the Allotment in the future.

Case Study Adult Signpost

SS is a capable 22 year old, yet unconfident young man, who has found it difficult to find long-term employment. Adding to his struggles, he is reluctant to apply for benefits and lives solely from the support of his mother. He is the living proof of not judging a book by its cover, friendly and intuitive, SS has a keen dedication to whatever he is engaged in.

Initially, he was encouraged to participate in a youth allotment project, to help him with his confidence and to keep him busy and engaged. Instantly, and with the support of his peers, SS took to the project and was a keen advocate for continuing the project past its end date. Following this, he was signposted to a youth employability course – Inspire Suffolk's Fast Forward programme. Seizing on his potential and growth in confidence, he has now taken his future into his hands by applying for a job at a local supermarket.

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 have just started our Autumn Junior Signpost. We are currently working with 12 young people some are new referrals and others are existing members. We have a variety of sessions planned some are repeated popular sessions and it is hoped that skills and confidence can be developed at a higher level.

Case Study Junior Signpost

RD is a very intelligent young man who has Asperger's Syndrome and Autism. His mother had to encourage him to attend as he was nervous and unsure how he would cope. When we first started working with him, he found it incredibly difficult to interact with other young people he had little or no social skills. Often solitary, he would shy away from engaging in activities – withdrawing behind his ear defenders and under his hoody.

Encouraging his engagement in activities, but not forcing him into it, and praising him for his engagement was paramount in helping him to open up to both his peers and the adults that supported him. By the end of his time in our first course, Signpost 4Boys, he had become an integral member of the group and whilst still quiet, there was a definite improvement in his self-confidence. He took off his ear defenders off and his hoody down for the last 2 sessions which was essential if he was going to engage with his peers on the course. His mother told us of how much he had enjoyed his time with us and he is now engaging in his second round of youth wellbeing groups.

We have been busy applying for more funding for our Signpost Project. We have applied to the Haverhill South Peoples Forum and also to the St Edmundsbury Community Chest. We need to await the outcome to see if we have secured future funding for 2018.

Looking ahead

We will run the Rob Maidment Enterprise Project again in the New Year. Our teams will be given £50 and tasked with making the highest profit. We are thinking of changing things around slightly this time to give it a slightly different look and to try and engage local businesses.

We will continue to hold our pop-in job hub 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 meeting with the Social Prescribing Project Coordinators and establishing how we will work more closely together in the future to help enhance the already good results we are achieving independently.

I will meet with Dave Gooderham and look forward to assisting and supporting to organise an Apprenticeship Event that will take place in January.

We will continue to run our Signpost projects if our funding applications are successful. If not we will need to investigate other sources of money. We will need to pencil in a plan of how we will deliver Signpost in the New Year and who we will be targeting next time around.

I would by the New Year like to have a programme of short courses available for our young people. Those that have finished attending the short courses they are currently attending will either be successful in finding employment or will need to attend further training to enable them to move on positively. So it essential we encourage suitable progression courses to be delivered and available in Haverhill. Princes Trust 12 week Challenge Programme will be targeted as will other programs that have a proven track record.