

**Minutes of a Meeting of the External
Partnerships Select Committee held at
Council Chamber, Surrey Heath
House, Knoll Road, Camberley, GU15
3HD on 30 November 2021**

+ Cllr Vivienne Chapman (Chairman)

+ Cllr Morgan Rise (Vice Chairman)

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Cllr Dan Adams | + Cllr Josephine Hawkins |
| - Cllr Richard Brooks | + Cllr David Lewis |
| +* Cllr Sarah Jane Croke | + Cllr Emma-Jane McGrath |
| - Cllr Paul Deach | + Cllr Pat Tedder |
| +* Cllr Tim FitzGerald | +* Cllr Helen Whitcroft |
| - Cllr Mark Gordon | |

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

*Present Virtually (and could not vote on resolutions).

Substitutes: Cllr Darryl Ratiram (In place of Cllr Paul Deach)

Members in Attendance: Cllr Rodney Bates and Cllr Sashi Mylvaganam

Officers Present: Jayne Boitout and Louise Livingston

12/EP Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

13/EP Accent Housing Update

The Committee received a written update from Accent Housing in respect of the performance of its maintenance service.

RESOLVED that the written update be noted.

14/EP Voluntary Support North Surrey (VSNS)

The Committee received a presentation from Helen Fray, Chairman, and Solette Sheppardson, Chief Executive Officer, of Voluntary Support North Surrey in respect of its recent work.

Voluntary Support North Surrey (VSNS) was an independent charity supporting approximately 1,500 third sector organisations within the Boroughs and Districts of Spelthorne, Runnymede and Surrey Heath and thereby served the needs of circa 300,000 Surrey residents. VSNS supported the third sector in fulfilling its statutory obligations; in building capacity, through helping fill unmet need for volunteers; providing support in respect of communications and engagement and providing training for charitable organisations; and aimed to provide support and be a

beacon as to how a charitable organisation should be run. More recently VSNS took a more active role in directly providing service provision in relation to the Covid-19 vaccination volunteer programme. It was noted that whether the organisation wanted to extend itself in respect of direct service provision was the subject of a current internal discussion within VSNS.

VSNS' business plan for 2021/2023 laid out 4 priorities for the organisation moving forward:

1. Supporting provision in respect of health (with an emphasis on mental health).
2. The development of diversity and inclusion within the organisation. It was acknowledged that there was a need for volunteers and VSNS clients to feel represented by the makeup of the organisation. As a result, initiatives were being undertaken to attract younger trustees from a more diverse range of backgrounds.
3. Future-proofing following the pandemic- It was acknowledged that during the pandemic that a large amount of volunteers had volunteered for the very first time and that it was important for VSNS to understand their motivations and circumstances before they could encourage them into new volunteer roles post-pandemic.
1. Communication for Impact – It was acknowledged whilst VSNS provided a united voice for the third sector, the organisation had struggled to communicate and be visible as the force behind the large group of volunteers.

VSNS received Surrey Heath specific funding from Frimley Park CCG, Surrey Heath Borough Council and Surrey County Council. The Borough Council provided £30,000 in core funding to the organisation and an additional £10,000 specifically in respect of the Time2Talk befriending service. As per normal, over the past year VSNS had successfully provided services to increase the capacity and capabilities of the services provided by the third sector including advice and training on application writing, social media content, fundraising, youth engagement and governance and board matters. In addition to this VSNS had provided greater direct provision, than had previously done so, in respect of health. The organisation had placed 360 volunteers at Lakeside vaccination centre between January and April and from April onwards had been a driving force behind the Covid-Champions programme and had organised provision of Personal Protective Equipment and Oximeters. Also in respect of health, VSNS had continued to run its Mental Health Forum, which aimed to promote joined-up working within the third sector in respect of good mental health provision, and provided support to build the capacity of organisations which received referrals from social prescribing. It was also noted that VSNS continued to work in conjunction with Surrey Heath Age Concern in order to run the Time to Talk befriending service.

VSNS felt that there were opportunities to work with the Council to improve its private sector engagement and provide a more coordinated approach to recruiting corporate sector volunteers. It was felt that there were also potential to work in even stronger partnership with Surrey Heath Age Concern. In addition it was noted that VSNS were in conversations with the Council in respect of the potential to create a volunteering hub in Camberley Town Centre.

Resulting from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Voluntary Support North Surrey had received recognition from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Surrey in respect of its excellent organisation of volunteers at the Lakeside Vaccination Centre.
- At Lakeside vaccination Centre 17 lead volunteers led and organised the rest of the volunteer workforce. The structure and makeup of the volunteering programme was being used as a blueprint for the coordination of volunteers throughout the rest of the country.
- Councillors saw the move by the organisation to be more representative, diverse and inclusive as a positive.
- There was a trend that Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) potential volunteers had a lower take-up rate when offered volunteering placements in comparison to their non-BAME counterparts. Further work had to be undertaken to understand the cause of this and it was considered by Members whether there was value to VSNS reaching out to local minority groups in order to try to engage greater numbers of the BAME community in volunteering.
- Following the recent height of the pandemic, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme was starting to resume in schools, and there was potential for VSNS to help local charities harness these potential volunteers. Previously VSNS did not have enough placements to meet the demand of Duke of Edinburgh scheme participants. However since then, VSNS has widened the breadth and volume of Duke of Edinburgh scheme placements which it has available.

The Committee thanked Helen and Solette for their time and informative presentation.

15/EP Camberley Judo Club

The Committee received a presentation from Carly Dixon, Secretary and Children's Coach, and Luke Preston, Head Coach, of Camberley Judo Club.

Camberley Judo Club was a registered charity, based on the Old Dean and was a unique club which had programmes aimed at children through to seniors and elite athletes competing at international level. Since the summer of 2021 Camberley Judo Club had doubled its participation numbers for children's Judo; providing 11 classes per week for those aged 3-18 years old. Furthermore approximately 100 students benefited from Judo classes as part of a programme that the Judo Club delivered to primary schools across the borough. In contrast Camberley Judo Club also had a full time high performance elite judo training centre on-site which had produced Commonwealth Games champions, olympic medalists; and 14 Team Great Britain and Northern Ireland olympians since the club was founded.

In the past the Judo Club had received funding from the Council in order to build the on-site conditioning gym which the club match funded, via the Councils Community Fund Grant Scheme. During lockdown funds were received from Sport England and Surrey County Council Members' Community Allocation.

Recently the Judo Club had participated in the running of the Holiday, Activity and Food (HAF), school holiday camps through Active Surrey. The Club had also provided Judo lessons as part of the Community Sports Referral Pathway for Young Offenders programme and had previously provided free judo lessons to local children on the Old Dean during half term holidays.

Looking to the future, the club was aspiring to improve its current facilities, with a view to one day finding funding for a new facility. The Club was also looking to grow its membership and the first training centre to receive judo accreditation ahead of the upcoming Commonwealth games to be held in Birmingham.

Resulting from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Members felt that it couldn't be underestimated as to the confidence and the boost to wellbeing that the club's judo programme gave to the participating children.
- Due to the Judo club's outreach activities and work to promote an active lifestyle amongst kids, it would most probably be successful in a grant application to the recently established Community Foundation for Surrey grant scheme. Furthermore it was felt there was a natural synergy between the Council and the club due to the recent establishment of the Council's Obesity Strategy.
- There were a lot of schools within Surrey Heath which were already clients of Judo businesses; and as a result Camberley Judo Club had to also branch out to outside of the borough to conduct classes in schools.

It was echoed throughout the Committee that if the club had a specific project forthcoming, it would welcome a Community Fund Grant application from the Judo Club. The Committee thanked Carly and Luke for their excellent presentation and for attending.

16/EP Camberley Cricket Club

The Committee received a presentation from Keith Halsey, Chairman, in respect of the work of Camberley Cricket Club.

Camberley Cricket Club was a club based on Upper Verran Road and catered for every gender, all ages and to all abilities. Furthermore the Cricket Club also aimed to provide an excellent facility for local community residents to hire for their clubs, societies, special occasions and celebrations. Whilst the club was not a charity it always ploughed back any surplus into improving the club's infrastructure or benefits for the club's membership.

The club had achieved England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Clubmark accreditation which was a mark of a sustainable, well run club, which also provided a safe and rewarding place for young people to play cricket. The accreditation required the club to continually analyse its provision as to remain compliant, with particular attention paid to safeguarding standards.

Since 2018, junior membership had grown by 31% from 185 to 243 and a major expansion of the club's senior offering including a women's team. Since 2018 the club had also acquired new state of the art outdoor coaching facility; and had continued to provide excellent community use facilities for local clubs and societies; and for weekend celebrations which was a major source of income and had amounted to over 70 bookings per annum.

Looking to the future, Camberley Cricket Club faced numerous opportunities and challenges which needed to be overcome. Whilst the club had the benefit of a loyal membership, good facilities and an experienced Committee, it was anticipated that a significant number of Committee Members and key personnel would be looking to take a step-back in a number of years' time. This included the longstanding groundsman who owned the equipment that the club used.

In addition it was noted that despite the growth in women's cricket and the club, there hadn't yet been established a good pathway between girls cricket and the women's team. In addition, Camberley Cricket Club lacked an established school catchment, which existed for many rival clubs in South London.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Whilst Membership enquiries had rocketed and enquiries in respect of use of the club house had doubled during the course of the pandemic, many previous users of the club's facilities such as local bridge clubs, had not returned as regular hirers.
- Camberley Cricket Club was able to apply to the relevant council grant schemes for projects, where the criteria was met, this could include: the Community Fund Grant Scheme, the Borough Council Ward Councillor Grant Scheme and the Surrey County Council Members' allocation scheme.
- The Cricket Club had potential to further engage with its local ward members.
- Under the ECB's 'Chance to Shine', programme, Camberley Cricket Club sent their coaches into local schools, such as St Augustines, Frimley Green and Crawley Ridge schools, to run cricket programmes at no cost to the club.
- With advances to technology and ways to communicate, as well as new areas for overseeing such as ECB Clubmarking, safeguarding and policy, volunteer roles on the Cricket Club boards such as Chairmanship had become far more technical and intensive.
- It was felt that Camberley Cricket Club could act as a vehicle to help the Council and other public bodies to engage with hard to reach ethnic minority communities. It was noted that BAME Cricket club members would often be thought of as respectable, well-informed members of their communities, and could offer a route to disseminate information on topics such as healthcare, COVID-19 vaccines and taxi licensing.

The Committee thanked Keith Halsey for his informative presentation and wished the club good luck for next year's season.

17/EP Surrey Heath Lottery

The Committee received a presentation from Jayne Boitout, Community Development Officer, which updated on the Surrey Heath Lottery.

The Surrey Heath Lottery had been running since 2019 and empowered local charitable good causes to fundraise whilst also giving their supporters the opportunity to win up to £25,000. Over 65 local good causes had been part of the scheme and received a monthly income as a result. More than 400 people played the lottery every week and 60p of every £1 spent went to local good causes. Within its first 24 months, more than £40,000 had been raised for local good causes via the lottery.

During December 2020, a total of almost £8,000 was awarded to the 8 successful applicants of the first round of funding from the Annual Lottery Grant Scheme. Applications for the fund took the form of a simple online form and eligible local groups did not have to be registered as a local good cause in regards to the lottery.

Arising from the debate it was reiterated that Councillors were in a positive position to promote the Lottery and the Annual Lottery Grant Scheme to constituents and local good causes alike. In addition it was agreed that it would be useful for some text or some social media collateral to be created in order for Members to share to their various networks.

The Committee thanked Jayne for the informative update.

18/EP Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered its work programme for the remainder of the municipal year and for upcoming 2022/23 municipal year.

It was agreed that Camberley Street Angels would be considered for addition to the Committee's work programme for the next municipal year.

RESOLVED that the Committee Work Programme be noted.

Chairman