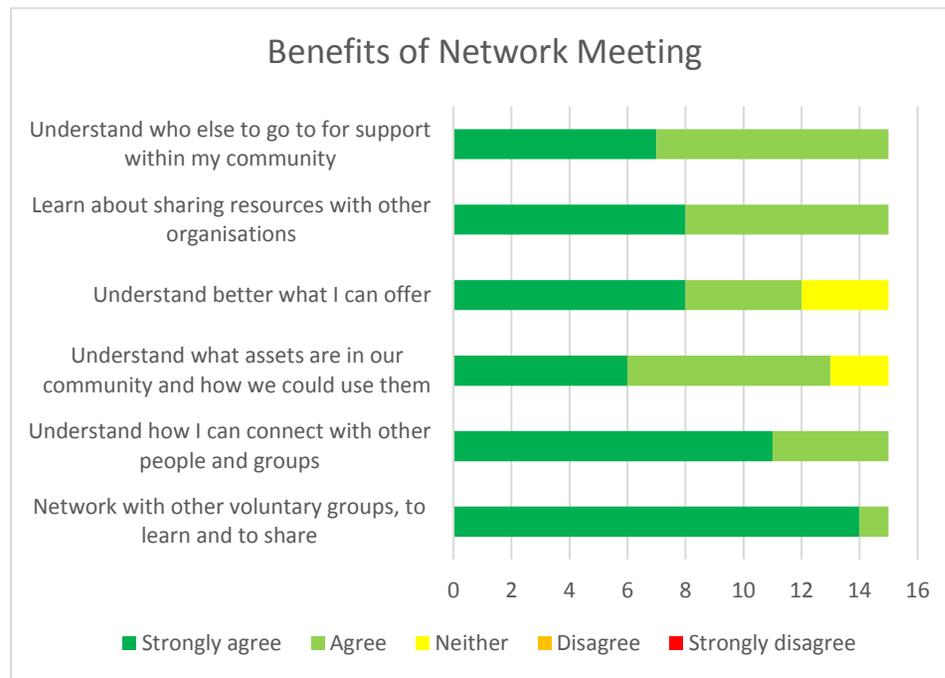




HAILSHAM AND POLEGATE COMMUNITY NETWORK

The third Hailsham and Polegate Community Network meeting was held on 25th January 2018 at Polegate Community Centre. 25 people attended the meeting. Cllr and Mayor of Polegate, Angela Snell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and was delighted to find so many different organisations at work in the area. Pat Payne, Chair of Polegate Community Centre, described how she had become involved in the Community Centre, the many groups who depended on the activities taking place, the challenges she and her team faced to maintain the building, and the activities and her hopes for the future. She described how, as a result of the networks, she had met with Fee Perks from fellowship of St Nicholas ROVTE project and a gardening course was about to begin at the Centre. Contact with 3VA had also helped with grants to re-furbish the toilets, but more funds were needed to complete the project.

Below is some feedback we received about the network meeting.



Comments

Good to know we are all working towards the same goal 'integrative'
Let's form a community forum for voluntary groups in Polegate to work together and support each other.

The meeting began with introductions. Participants sent in cards and/or described who they were, what their organisation did and what they were most proud of.

Organisation	Comments
Locality Link Workers, East Sussex County Council	The connections that we make with people and organisations.
One You East Sussex	It's amazing to be able to help people live a healthier life with a holistic integrated community-based approach.
Sussex Community Development Association	We deliver great health and wellbeing activities to the local community and provide an enjoyable and flexible volunteer experience.
East Sussex Families & Carers Team	We receive referrals from all over the county even though we are based in Eastbourne, so our networking has clearly paid off.
Hailsham Active	We are filling gaps to help the sporting community, schools and indeed as many as we can through understanding what the gaps are and preparing some alternative options... using volunteers in the main.
Bowes House – Care UK	The care and attention we provide to our residents 24/7 and the beautiful building I work in every day.
SCDA	The good community work they do and the way all the different section of SCDA support each other, collaborating in their work.
Ecohub	The encouragement and support of the manager and fellow volunteers, the venue as its relaxing and working with nature.
Community and Regeneration Team, Wealden District Council	WDC have good connections with local partners. Engage well within the community. Colleagues forward thinkers.

ECOHUB	<p>Being able to provide both space and time for people to come and explore opportunities, practise and teach others what they are passionate about it.</p> <p>Bringing together different organisations and groups of people who want to make community stronger and more diverse.</p>
Friends of Demelza Hospice Care for Children	<p>I know that after all the effort we put in to raise funds for Demelza, it goes to the right place – to help Demelza to offer the fantastic services that they do.</p> <p>We raise funds from organising our own events, but also offer volunteers to Demelza when events come up that they have organised, that are within our geographical area.</p>
East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People	<p>How we help to alleviate isolation and loneliness among blind and partially sighted people in East Sussex, treating them as individuals, providing support and services tailored to their needs, and making them feel part of the ESAB family.</p> <p>Also remembering the difference our volunteers make in helping to improve the lives of people living with sight loss in our local communities, without whom we would not be able to provide the services we do.</p> <p>The best piece of advice I was given when new in post – ‘Keep the members at the heart of everything you do, and you won’t go far wrong’</p> <p>How we could do more? - By boosting the awareness of sight loss in our local communities through community outreach partnership working and vision awareness training.</p>
Fellowship of St Nicholas	<p>It is a long-established charity of 70 years and it really values and empowers volunteers in employment and training opportunities as well as supports the children and families in the area, helping to build confidence, stop isolation and develop motivation.</p>
Hailsham Foodbank	<p>The links and support we have from our community and other local organisations.</p>
Polegate Town Council	<p>That I helped bring back the CAB to Polegate.</p>
Craftyannies Home	<p>As an assistant to the organisation I feel valuable in making it all work with workshops.</p>
Children with Cancer Fund	<p>Enthusiasm/commitment of staff and volunteers.</p>
Proactive Care	<p>Linking the NHS and community voluntary sector. Helping people who are likely to slip through the net.</p>

3VA	Supporting voluntary groups, helping with funding, getting groups established and building partnerships.
Proactive Care	Providing information to people in need of socialisation and being able to spend time with people.
Polegate Community Association	That there are church halls in Polegate, but this centre can offer better facilities than they can. Consequently, we have a wide range of users from the youngest to the oldest, with a wide range of activities.
Polegate Community Association	All welcoming to people of Polegate and surrounding areas – which is our mission statement, and which can see is upheld.
3VA	Bringing people together, making events enjoyable.
Craftyannies Home	I did it and it is working. I help people who can easily be side-lined and forgotten. One of my ladies walked down Hailsham High Street clutching what she had made, giggling. As they say, priceless!
CAB Hailsham	Bringing high quality help to people in distress, offering services to rural communities
Hailsham Community Groups Forum	Bringing groups together in Hailsham to support each other, event on sat 250 people attended.

Locality: Hailsham and Polegate	Date: 25 th Jan 2018	Venue: Polegate Community Centre	Facilitators: Alison Sorlie, Fiona Morton, Pat Payne, Cllr Angela Snell
Themes / Topics from previous meeting			
Discussion Theme(s)	Previously Known Priority: (what we are doing now)	Insight / intelligence/ Discussion highlights (what do we want to do in future)?	Next Steps: (where will this go? What do we need to get there?)
Getting people to events and activities	<p>Groups struggle for members/volunteers</p> <p>Often don't get people who are in greatest need to events</p>	<p>Hailsham volunteering event was a good way for the local community to see what was on offer.</p> <p>Well attended, first of its kind</p> <p>Good examples of social media use</p> <p>Networking like this!</p> <p>Use local media – Eastbourne Herald and Sussex Express</p> <p>Hailsham FM</p> <p>Facebook and word of mouth</p> <p>Support other people's events</p> <p>Pictures speak louder than words</p> <p>Maureen Copping, Eastbourne Herald Sussex</p> <p>Facebook Polegate Community events</p> <p>Attracts new volunteers</p>	<p>Let's form a community forum for voluntary groups in Polegate to work together and support each other.</p> <p>Set up local Community Groups Forum like the one in Hailsham to share good practice and resources</p> <p>Make sure Foodbank knows about you. They see hard to reach groups.</p>
Funding	Can spend all allocated time Sometimes no-one to contact to discuss form	Use a specialist/recruit a volunteer. Have a conversation with funder.	LLWSs/3VA to co-ordinate information.

	Forms like BSC unclear, badly written, ask for too many things- compare to Chalk Cliff Trust, and others	Apply to multiple funds. 3VA collate information and give advice. Funding news. Trustee responsibility - where has money come from?	Tell each other about training events, funding fairs Join 3VA to get news directly and discounts on training and help. Ask for help from 3VA, AirS and SCDA.
Reaching vulnerable people	Rural isolation is a major issue Lack of services in relatively affluent areas	How do we meet those needs? Local community groups are very resilient Sharing information Collective network of support Knowing / remembering what everyone does Being able to contact each other Interest areas Current concerns How to contact Network profile with photo Signposting	Whom do you ring if you're not sure (Alison or Fiona?) Tell the Foodbank what we do (they meet vulnerable people daily) MECC training Proactive care practitioners can be flexible in taking referrals, not just from GP database Annie Crafter-Smith setting up a workshop with a lunch club in Punnett's Town

Ideas for next network meetings

Transport in rural areas still a problem.

Offers of help: Bowes House – place to meet.

Photo booth idea.

Groups to show each other what they do or experience what their members deal with.