

Community Partnership Impact 2024-2025

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2025

Funded projects

Hour Community Shed and Tilly the Tuk Tuk

Contributing towards the running costs of the shed that has been running for 4 years

Providing a sense of purpose to all who come through the door

Linking with their Furniture project where they take donations and give them a new lease of life to be sold on or given to families in need

10-20 regular attendees at the Men's Shed

Supporting the purchase of a Tuk Tuk to do shorter journeys in Framlingham

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank East Suffolk Community Partnership for their support over the last few years without which our Shed, Men's and Ladies, would probably not have as many tools and may not have been able to pay the rent. Instead, due to the support we have received from the Community Partnership, the Shed is flourishing and membership is growing and the members are renovating more furniture for our Furniture project, which enables us to provide free furniture to those who have very little, and sell furniture to those who can afford it, which in turn helps pay the rent, and other associated cost. Tilly the Tuk Tuk, also funded by the CP, will shortly be out and about providing transport for some people to the health centre, as well as rides out for some of the residents at the care home and day care centre.”



Charity No. 1167837

Youth Opportunity Fund – Christians Against Poverty Suffolk Coastal

Allocating funding to schools and youth clubs to hold so young people can access opportunities and assets that they may not otherwise be able to access

Organisations that benefitted included Christians Against Poverty Suffolk Coastal, Thomas Mils High School, Sir Robert Hitchams School, Yoxford and Peasehall Primary and FAYAP

The funding was used on different things including:

- Buying equipment for sports teams that core school budget can't fund
“We're very grateful for the funding, as it has allowed us to purchase new sports bibs for our KS2 pupils. These have already made a big difference in PE lessons and sports events, helping to create a stronger team identity and ensuring all children feel included”
- Covering trips for those who can't afford it

This has enabled young people to access opportunities that previously were not possible

C is a high school, student and suffers from social anxiety disorder due to past history. This means they are 'not good in socials arenas and in big groups of people and can't do the normal things like go to a park or go to the cinema'

C wanted to go to the school prom but family finances meant they couldn't 'necessarily afford because of our situation'

This funding was used to support her to go to her school prom

“You've made a girl's dreams come true that you can go to prom, where sometimes when you're in debt the way you are these things you can't afford to do and it's just so lovely that there's people out there willing to help to make”

“She is very much an introvert child and this has helped her so much to do the things that other normal kids can do”

“To see so much joy in her face knowing that she's going to get to do something that she really is going to enjoy”

It allows C to be a kid again”

Small grants – Sweffling summer activities

Mental Health Try It grants scheme

Alde Community Council applied for funds to run engaging activities for families over Summer 2024

This included learning to play bowls and receiving tennis coaching

The grant meant 28 children were able to benefit

“Making new friends - she is neurodiverse so this meant a lot”

“Boules club experience opened his eyes to a new sport and new people”

“Meeting new children in the village and making new friends”

“The most positive experiences my 13-year-old child had this summer were learning two new skills—tennis and participating in the bowls club. Additionally, he enjoyed the independence of meeting up with friends and walking to these clubs on his own, without needing me to take him. This newfound independence and the opportunity to develop new skills were incredibly beneficial for his growth and confidence.

“Came away happy and enjoyed meeting with others”

“New skills and confidence with them”

“Fun”

“Despite the heat, they all had a blast and spent time at the end trying to remember each others names.”

SaxFest

Annual community festival in Saxmundham which serves a large catchment area including some of the parishes in the Kelsale and Yoxford ward

It ran in 2022 but not 2023 due to funding

2024 therefore was the year to try and bring the festival back

The festival was planned by the SaxFest team to be about music but also community support available

Working in partnership with the Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Community Partnership and local district councillors, we supported towards the running costs

We also had a presence on the two days it was running with a stall promoting local initiatives

More than 2000 people visited over the Friday and Saturday

This support also provided them with evidence base to go to the Sizewell C Community Fund for funding – they received 3 years of running costs

“In 2024, Saxmundham Community Festival event saw people of different ages working alongside each other, supporting one and other in a proactive and positive way, engaging in music and volunteering activities, and seeking information from local council information areas.”

“The festival brings a wide range of the local community together on these days and offered an excellent opportunity to showcase local services to all.”

“It was a time for local community bodies to promote themselves and generate interest with local residents.”

“Without the grants and funding from local sources, this event would not have been able to operate. In 2024, we are particularly thankful for the large grants from East Suffolk District Council Community Partnership Teams.”

“We will keep supporting an effective integration of local communities ... we will also build on our current successes. “



East Suffolk Blooms

Supporting the wider district project by providing extra funds to be used on our area

Each group awarded blooms will be provided a pack of mixed bulbs to be planted in the community

We provided £2000 of funding – enough for about 21 packs

This has enabled 21 organisations out of 70 applicants to receive bulbs



Including:

Brandeston Village Hall & Recreation Ground,
Sweffling Parish Council, Great Glemham Parish
Council

Chediston and Linstead Group Parish Council, SAX
Community Fridge, Ubbeston Parish Council

Farnham with Stratford St Andrew PC, Hacheston
Parish Council, Pettistree Parish Council

Photos to come in May time!

Field 2 Fork

“Thank you so much for this opportunity” – parent from Sir Robert Hitchams Primary School

- Field 2 Fork includes a successful strand of distributing growing kits to primary schools across the district
- Field to Fork aims to encourage people to try to grow their own food and improve their health and wellbeing in the process. Kits including seeds, instructions and compost pellets
- This funding meant an extra 300 kits could be distributed in this area – 1 school was receiving kits previously so this meant at least an extra 2 schools would benefit
- Wider impact of the project we are supporting:
 - 80% of people said it improved their wellbeing
 - The project was rated 4.4 out of 5 by participants
 - In 23/24 across the whole project, over £130,000 of produce was grown
 - And 29 metric tonnes of co2e was saved, the same as driving a family car over 100,000 miles
- Sir Robert Hitchams Primary in Framlingham, Easton Primary School and Kelsale Primary receiving packs as a result of the Community Partnership’s support – in addition to Wickham Market Primary
- Distributed 100 packs at Sir Robert Hitchams in about 20 minutes!



Impact – work we've
done at no extra cost

Mental Health survey – general

In-house survey promoted on social media and by community groups designed to look at what residents feel are the challenges being faced around mental health and what local assets are that support their mental health

86 responses received across the CP area

Key challenges:

- Cost of living
 - Residents who scored 1 would not be coping with the cost of living at all well and 5 would be coping with the cost of living really well.
 - 1 said – 7 | 2-20
 - 3-31 | 4-18 | 5-10
 - 57 out of 86 people are in the lower (either 1,2 or 3) category of coping with the cost of living

Financial worries debts

Loneliness

Harassment, hostility and antisocial behaviour which diminishes their emotional wellbeing.

Employment chances

Worried about access to a GP

Not enough services being offered or a lack of treatment for other reasons

Do not know where to access help.

Social isolation is a big factor which diminishes emotional wellbeing and mental health

Rural locality is a barrier to access of the community groups and services in the area

Assets:

Green spaces to cycle and walk were something that currently existed in the community that help with your mental health.

Needs/wants:

Need 'go to' place for information (a central hub), more support and guidance, people to talk to about issues affecting you, better mental health support for people who they say don't meet criteria

Need for more community opportunities

Physical activity is a key trend – many are either recommending yoga, physical or fitness groups

There are also mentions of creative spaces to improve emotional and mental wellbeing

Mental Health survey – Fit Villages

One finding from the survey was residents wanted opportunities to keep fit that were affordable

Fit Villages is a project that runs across the county to set up a fitness class in a rural location with 8 weeks fully funded to see if there is appetite for it – the aim is that it then continues beyond the funded period with attendees paying the instructor a small fee directly

Cransford, Stratford St Andrew with Farnham and Wickham Market all were mentioned in the survey as being places where affordable physical activities would be helpful

Reached out to Fit Villages and follow up surveys were run in those communities to see what sort of activities they would appreciate

Stratford St Andrew with Farnham is nearing the end of its initial 8 weeks and had 20 at its first session – the classes will continue

Wickham Market is in the process of having a new light exercise class set up at the Village Hall plus a dementia friendly exercise class at the George Community pub

Launched in Cransford



Mental Health survey – Happy to Chat benches

One finding from the survey was opportunities to socialise with others

Happy to Chat benches are benches that have a sign on it signalling that the person is 'happy to chat'

These can be bespoke new benches or existing benches with a H2C sign on

The idea is they are creating natural spaces where people can socialise and do so in an unorganised, ad hoc way

Healthwatch Suffolk provide the signs free of charge

3 parishes have got Happy to Chat bench signs – 1

1 parish decided to put in an application to their local councillor for funding for a new bench so it could be their Happy to Chat bench



Wild about events

Inspired by Wild About Campsea Ashe, these are events that we encourage communities to do to educate and engage about nature – how they do it is up to them! An event, talks, picnic, nature walk - up to them!

We have had Wild About Wickham – now on its 3rd event

Wild About Ufford – which went down very well

Wild About Kelsale-cum-Carlton – a picnic taking place in June

Over 100 people have attended Wild About events so far



A vertical poster for 'Wild About Wickham' events. At the top, the word 'WILD' is in large green letters with floral illustrations, and 'ABOUT WICKHAM' is in smaller green letters below it. A yellow banner across the middle contains the text 'NATURE NEEDS YOU!' in bold black letters. Below this, a location pin icon is followed by 'Wickham Market village hall', and a calendar icon is followed by 'Saturday 3 February'. To the right of the date is a clock icon followed by '12pm - 4pm'. Below this, the text 'FREE ADVICE AND INFORMATION FROM...' is followed by a bulleted list: 'RSPB', 'Transition Woodbridge', 'Green Gym', 'Wickham Market Hedgehog Help', and 'And much more!'. At the bottom, a yellow box contains four items, each preceded by a green leaf icon: 'Free entry', 'Free activities for children', 'Refreshments available', and 'Raffle prizes and give-aways.'. To the right of this box is an illustration of a hedgehog. At the very bottom, the text 'MORE EVENTS TO FOLLOW' is partially visible.

WICKHAM MARKET VILLAGES

WILD

ABOUT WICKHAM

NATURE NEEDS YOU!

📍 Wickham Market village hall

📅 Saturday 3 February ⌚ 12pm - 4pm

FREE ADVICE AND INFORMATION FROM...

- RSPB
- Transition Woodbridge
- Green Gym
- Wickham Market Hedgehog Help
- And much more!

- 🍃 Free entry
- 🍃 Free activities for children
- 🍃 Refreshments available
- 🍃 Raffle prizes and give-aways.

MORE EVENTS TO FOLLOW

Katch

Katch continues to run through parts of the patch – e.g. Framlingham, Wickham Market, Hacheston and Parham

The demand responsive transport service can be booked by phoning up and booking can happen on the day or a couple of weeks ahead

Funding was secured for this to continue for another year and the route extended to Rendlesham and Easton

We have been working with the Sustainable Travel officer and officers on the Katch project to try and identify and maximise opportunities to promote the scheme

This includes:

- Providing details of local events happening so this is included in Katch comms – e.g. Christmas lights switch on events
- Providing key points about this to surgery contacts, social prescribers, job centre etc
- Promoting more among young people – going into Thomas Mills school and speaking to 200 young people within an hour! Each receiving a flyer and a Katch highlighter!
- Looking at what would motivate a journey on Katch and having this incorporated more in messaging – e.g. a trip to the Co-op or an independent business, using it to get to a medical appointment, paying a bus fare rather than petrol and parking



Working with other Community Partnerships and agencies

Working with Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership to support SaxFest

Liaising closely with health partners including the ICB and the local Integrated Neighbourhood Teams on key themes including mental health

Working closely with officers on the Katch project to identify opportunities to push the project

Sizewell C Community Fund team regularly attending our meetings, answering questions and taking feedback away

Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership have adopted our 'Try It' Fund model

Congratulations on successful
partnership and joining the
dots

