

EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN 2015 - 2023



CASE STUDY

ENABLING COMMUNITIES

ENABLING COMMUNITIES BUDGETS

Our Business Plan sets out a vision where we support, encourage and enable our communities to do more for themselves and ensure funding for community projects is easily accessible.

eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-business-plan



 customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

 01394 383789 (Suffolk Coastal) / 01502 562111 (Waveney)



Beccles Library, Blyburgate, Beccles
Felixstowe Library, Crescent Road, Felixstowe
Marina Centre, Marina, Lowestoft
Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge

SUPPORTING AND ENABLING COMMUNITY PROJECTS



WHAT WE DID?

Each of the 42 Suffolk Coastal District Councillors has a budget of £6,500 to support community projects in their area through our Enabling Communities Budgets (ECBs).

In 2016/17, almost £244,000 was allocated across the District and more than £600,000 has been given to local communities since the scheme started in 2013. Grants of between £250 and £6,500 are available through the ECBs.

The scheme is light touch to make it simple and easy to apply for – support is available from the East Suffolk Funding and Communities Teams to help groups work up their project ideas and submit a successful application through their local Councillors. Councillors actively encourage projects and are quick to support good ideas from within their communities.



WHY WE DID IT?

Suffolk Coastal District Council is an 'enabling' Council and strives to make it possible for communities to do what they want to do. The ECBs are just one way in which we demonstrate this.

Enabling is about supporting local communities to do more for themselves and have greater influence and control over their 'place' – we believe that the best way to enable people is by asking them what they want and helping them to achieve it. Providing small amounts of easy to access funding (with a quick process, simple application form and light touch monitoring) is a good way of doing this.



THE DIFFERENCE THIS MADE?

In 2016/17, 272 grants were made to 185 different projects and 164 different organisations - Councillors can club together to fund projects if a number of them cover a larger area, such as Felixstowe, and organisations can submit more than one project in a financial year.

Each of our 42 Councillors made an average of 6 allocations. Organisations received an average grant of £1,487.

40% of the funding (£97,000) was allocated to Town and Parish Councils or Village Halls/Community Centres, 17% to sports and fitness projects and 13% each to 'culture' and park projects.

"The ECBs are easy to apply for and support is available from staff in the East Suffolk Funding and Communities Teams to help groups work up their project ideas and submit a successful application through their local Councillors. Councillors actively encourage projects and are quick to support good ideas from within their communities.."

- CLLR TJ HAWORTH-CULF

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



164 ORGANISATIONS



185 PROJECTS



272 GRANTS