

**17 MARCH 2026**

**KEY DECISION NO**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT - GRANT SCHEMES**

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This report provides Cabinet with an overview of the Pride in Place and Supporting Communities grants for the 2024/25 financial year. Its purpose is to share the impact of the funded projects and demonstrate how these grants have contributed to the delivery of the Council's priorities.

**Recommendation**

That Cabinet notes the findings of this report, along with the published annual reports, which showcase the grant recipients, the outcomes achieved through the grants and the impact on the local community.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. This report outlines the positive community impact achieved through projects funded by the Council's Supporting Communities and Pride in Place grant schemes for the 2024/2025 financial year. The purpose of the report is to inform Cabinet of the impacts the funding has delivered across the community and to demonstrate how the grant schemes support the Council to deliver its strategic priorities.
- 1.2. The report focuses purely on the Supporting Communities and Pride in Place (UKSPF) grants. It highlights the community benefits for residents, partners and the wider community. Detailed impact reports for each programme are attached as appendices.
- 1.3. The report does not cover the Rushmoor Together Grant scheme, which only allocated funding from the summer 2025, nor does it include the Rushmoor Lottery and Farnborough Airport grant programmes. Annual reports for the Lottery and the Airport will be presented in due course. A Rushmoor Together report is due in 2027.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The Council's Community & Partnerships Service oversees the management of the Council's community grant programmes. This includes

Supporting Communities, Pride in Place, Rushmoor Together, Farnborough Airport Environmental grants and the Rushmoor Community Lottery grants.

- 2.2. All grant applications are evaluated against the specific criteria of each scheme, considering factors such as community need, the potential impact on residents and communities, deliverability and value for money.
- 2.3. This report focuses on the Supporting Communities and Pride in Place grants only.

### 3. ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDING

- 3.1. In 2024/25, the council allocated a total of **£67,378** in grants across the two programmes:

Grant Programme	Budget	Max Grant Available	Amount Allocated	Number of Projects supported
Supporting Communities	20k	1k	20	28
Pride In Place (UKSPF)	50k	5k	47,376*	16
			<b>67, 378</b> *The remainder was rolled over for Pride in Place 25/6	<b>44</b>

#### Supporting the Council’s Delivery Plan.

- 3.2. Supporting Communities and Pride in place grants support the delivery of two key Council priority areas:
  - Community & Wellbeing: Active lives, Healthier & Stronger communities and
  - Pride In Place: Clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods.
- 3.3. Pride in Place grant applications require applicants to demonstrate how they will contribute to one or more of the following outcomes: Supporting community integration initiatives, improving access to physical and/or cultural activities, improving access to local amenities and green space, Building capacity and capabilities of community groups.
- 3.4. Supporting Communities grant applications require applicants to demonstrate how their project will have a positive impact on: Physical or mental health, economic hardship, connecting communities.

- 3.5. Through relatively modest levels of investment, the grants support the Council's role as a community leader and enabler, empowering local organisations to deliver community activity, leveraging significant volunteer time and strengthening local capacity.
- 3.6. Many of the funded projects have helped to increase physical activity, support mental health and wellbeing, encourage cohesion, reduce social isolation and provide early support to vulnerable residents. This preventative approach can reduce demand on statutory services over time.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Risks**

- 4.1. Successful applications are required to provide feedback and are subject to monitoring and evaluation.

### **Legal Implications**

- 4.2. All Community grants are subject to grant conditions and eligibility checks.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 4.3. All grants were awarded within the approved 2024/25 budget allocation per grant. Expenditure has been monitored to ensure compliance with financial governance policies. No overspend has occurred. The small underspend on Pride in Place was rolled over to the 25/26 Pride in Place budget.

### **Equalities Impact Implications**

- 4.4. Demonstrating how the funded activities have helped to reduce inequalities and increase diversity, inclusion and access in Rushmoor is a grant reporting requirement.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1. Cabinet note the findings of this report, along with the published annual impact reports, which showcase the grant recipients, the outcomes achieved through the grants and the impact on the local community.

## **LIST OF APPENDICES:**

**Pride in Place Impact Report**  
**Supporting Communities Impact Report**

## **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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# IMPACT REPORT 2024/25

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## PRIDE IN PLACE 2024-25 AWARDS

**RUSHMOOR**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# FOREWORD

This year's report celebrates the brilliant projects made possible through the Pride in Place Grant programme and shows just how much can be achieved when local people are supported to shape the places they care about.

Right across the borough, community groups, volunteers, and residents have rolled up their sleeves to deliver projects that enhance shared spaces and bring neighbours closer together. From greener streets and better access to local facilities, to lively celebrations of arts, culture, and heritage, every project has added something special. Along the way, people have picked up new skills, enjoyed healthier lifestyles, and grown a real sense of pride in where they live. Together, these projects reflect a shared vision for Rushmoor as a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming place for all.

Equally inspiring is the collaborative spirit behind the work. Local organisations and residents working side by side have shown the real power of partnership in creating positive, lasting change. Their energy and commitment are helping to build a stronger, more connected community that we can all be proud of.



**Cllr Sophie Porter**

Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder  
Rushmoor Borough Council

# GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024/25

## SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED

**Rushmoor Voluntary Service** £4,539

Blooming Minds green social prescribing program

**Hampshire and Surrey Hills Men's Choir**

£3,757

Recruitment to combat loneliness

**Spaces for Growing** £1,260.55

Wildflower Seedbombs Initiative in Rushmoor

**Rushmoor Pride** £500

Community fun day and Pride march

**Nutkhut** £4,999

The Poppies Blow

**West End Centre & Hampshire Cultural**

**Trust** £919

Suffolk Puffs Community Arts

**Community Matters Partnership Project**

£1,740

Corporate and annual volunteering days

**St. Peter's Church** £5,000

Celebrating Community

**The Aldershot Civic Society** £5,000

Municipal Gardens

**AMC Wellbeing Café** £2,460

Aldershot Heritage Pictures

**Rushmoor Eco Warriors** £3,773

Cleaner Streets for Rushmoor

**West End Centre & Hampshire Cultural Trust** £5,000

The Places that Link Us\*

**Spaces for Growing** £1,000

Pride in the Community

**Aldershot Cricket Club** £1,300

Wildflower Meadow\*

**Alderwood Senior School** £1,128

North Town Art Project

**Farnborough FC Community Trust** £5,000

Community Café and Hub

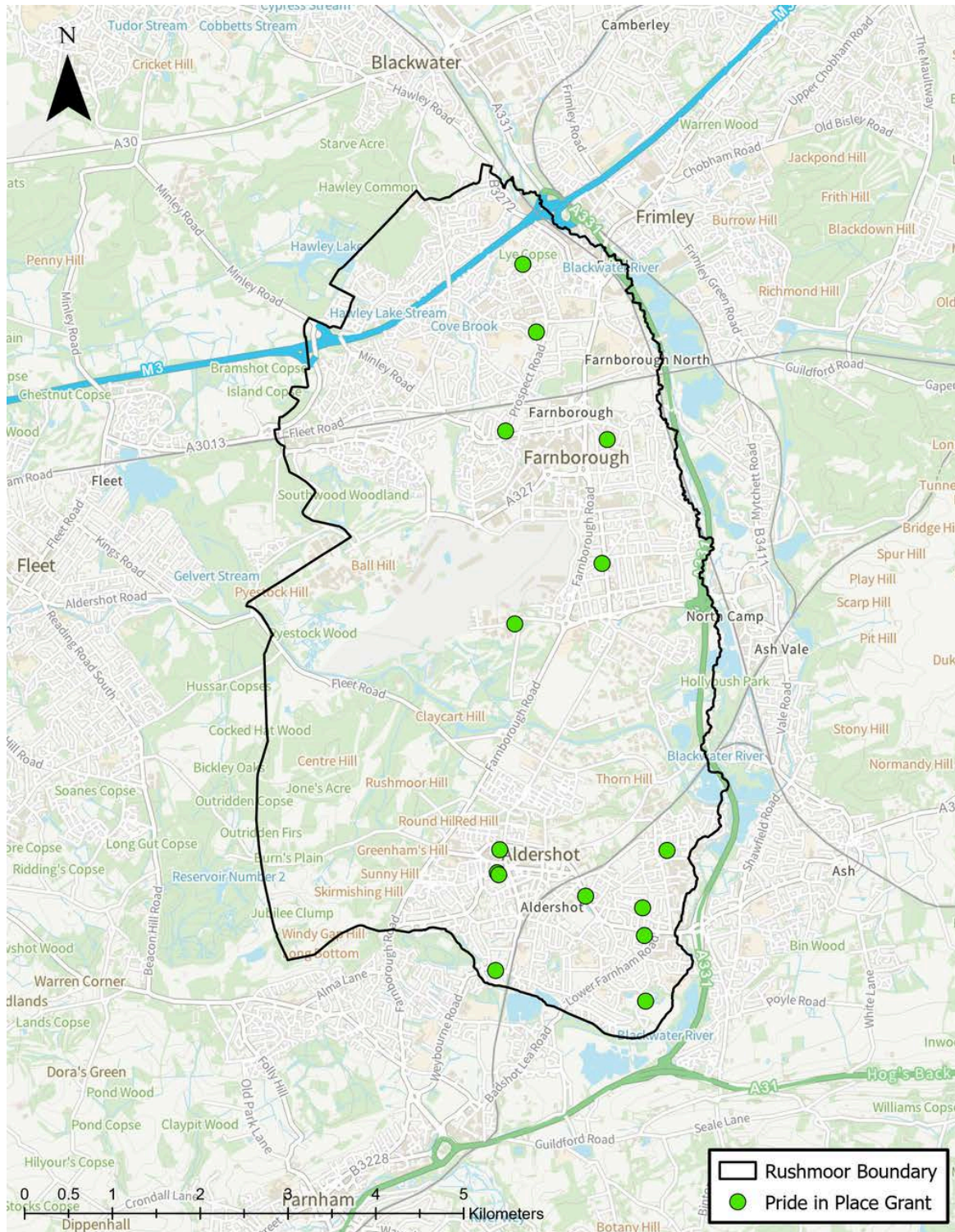
TOTAL AWARDED

FOR 2024/25:

**£47,376**

*\*Projects awaiting feedback*

# AWARDS 2024 - 2025



This map illustrates distribution of awards throughout the Borough. Some awards aren't shown as a marker on the map if they span a wider area or multiple locations.

# FEEDBACK FROM PROJECTS AWARDED IN 2024/25

## Rushmoor Voluntary Service

Pride in Place award: £4,539 | Total project cost: £4,539

### Blooming Minds Social Prescribing Program

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Adults experiencing depression, anxiety, grief, isolation and low confidence took part in weekly nature-based sessions, including gardening, creative outdoor activities, gentle exercise, visits to green spaces and meeting community organisations.

Assessments showed clear improvements in participants social connections, confidence, physical activity levels, mental wellbeing as well as learning new skills. Participants reported they felt less isolated, their motivation and routines had improved, and they had greater confidence to join a community group or take part independently in local activities. Many progressed into volunteering and/or joined a local group, and some even took steps towards work or training. Case studies highlight increased resilience, stronger social networks, and improved emotional wellbeing.

‘You will never really know how much you have given me!! – thank-you so much.’

“I will definitely be going on to do volunteering as a gardener at the day center where my late husband used to go.”



“Blooming minds has opened up the world and I don’t have to feel on my own. I think I’ll start by volunteering at Reg’s Garden.”

## Hampshire and Surrey Hills Men's Choir

Pride in Place award: £3,757 | Total project cost: £3,757

Recruitment to combat loneliness

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The funding was used to recruit new members to the choir and was extremely successful with over 30 men coming to the pizza and pint introduction event at the Hogsback Brewery in April. Following this the numbers of singers increased from 30 active singers to 45 and provided the impetus in the following months to increase the number of singers to 54. The new singers were registered and provided with singing lessons. The vibrant choir now has at least 4 excellent singers who are brilliant soloists.



“Men who share a love of singing and serving the local community and raising money for local charities along the way”

The choir is run solely for adult males and the funding has provided a beneficial outcome for men with both physical and mental health issues, as singing has many notable positive health benefits.

The choir is a charity and has raised a significant amount of money for local good causes. Because the singing standard (and volume) of the choir has significantly improved, they are drawing ever bigger audiences and thus raising bigger sums for local charities.

## Spaces for Growing

Pride in Place award: £1,260.55 | Total project cost: £1,260.55

### Wildflower Seedbombs Initiative in Rushmoor

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The funding created two permanent features that continue to bring daily benefits to local people:

- Cherrywood School sensory garden: a new bench, supporting children who choose to visit the sensory garden when they feel the need for reflection, calm, or exploration (numbers not formally recorded, but accessible to the whole school community).
- Alma House community garden, North Town: a raised planter, benefitting around 20 residents in this sheltered housing community who enjoy and maintain it as part of their shared green space.



Future impact: Both the planter and bench are permanent fixtures that will continue to benefit residents and children for years to come, while the self-seeding nature of poppies ensures that the workshop activity will leave a recurring visual and symbolic mark across the seven wards reached.



“A significant outcome was the diversity of engagement. Children, young people, adults, and older residents all took part, creating rare intergenerational contact and strengthening community links across Aldershot and Farnborough.”

“Children, families, and older residents talked together, sparking new conversations about nature, remembrance, and community pride.”



## Rushmoor Pride

Pride in Place award: £500 | Total project cost: £1,000

Community fun day and Pride march

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This was the first Rushmoor Pride event and it aimed to connect with the local LGBTQIA+ community, encourage community engagement, foster community cohesion and have fun. With 200 participants parading through Aldershot and engaging in various activities, boosting foot traffic and benefiting local businesses in the town center.



This lively celebration received a £500 Pride of Place grant and was made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers who organised the festivities. Their efforts not only highlighted the importance of inclusivity but also showcased the spirit of togetherness within the community.

*Pride*

‘Rushmoor Pride is set to be an annual event where the community can come together to celebrate love, diversity, and inclusion.’



## Nutkhut

Pride in Place award: £4,999 | Total project cost: £11,400

### The Poppies Blow

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This large, illuminated silk poppy stands as a visually and emotionally impactful centerpiece. Inspired by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*, it is designed to commemorate the sacrifices of armed forces personnel, it honor's our local heritage and enhances the cultural landscape of Rushmoor through artistic innovation.

Crafted from lightweight, fire-retardant silk and professionally batiked and dyed, the poppy offers vibrant daytime visibility and a glowing nighttime presence. It has become a focal point for remembrance and reflection, with public feedback describing it as "beautiful," "magical," and "a symbol of sacrifice and resilience."

"Seeing the poppy fills me with pride. It's a powerful tribute  
🌹 that reminds us to honour and remember." Andrea 🌹



"This installation is more than just art; it's a symbol of sacrifice and resilience"  
Ralph

"Beautiful & Magical - By day, the poppies stand bold and bright, and by night, they glow with a quiet, almost magical presence. It's breathtaking." Ashok

## West End Centre and Hampshire Cultural Trust

Pride in Place award: £919 | Total project cost: £1,219

### Suffolk Puffs

The Suffolk Puff project was developed to engage residents in arts and cultural activities, promoting wellbeing and fostering community cohesion. The project culminated in the creation of a vibrant community art piece that is a colourful representation of Rushmoor's diverse community, which was proudly displayed at the West End Centre's Annual Open Exhibition.

Nearly 60 participants made over 300 puffs, tripling the original target of 100. Many participants made additional puffs from home, showing personal pride and commitment to the project. Children were especially enthusiastic, creating puffs that were turned into take-home items like hair slides and badges.



“Good community project. Excellent at using recycled materials. Fun for all ages!”

“Quick and easy to participate using recycled scraps”

“Unique colourful creations. Easy for all ages and abilities”



# Community Matters Partnership Project

Pride in Place award: £1,740 | Total project cost: £1,740

Corporate and annual volunteering days

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CMPP's Pride of Place Grant was used to purchase tools and equipment such as rakes, shears, a jet wash, wheelbarrows, and storage tubs for corporate volunteering days. The purchase of this equipment has significantly enhanced their ability to support local charities and community projects across Rushmoor.

Since receiving the grant, CMPP has supported 36 charities by hosting volunteering days using the new equipment. These tools will continue to be used in future projects, extending the impact of the funding well beyond the initial spend. Many of the charities involved had limited or no tools of their own, so CMPP's ability to bring equipment made a significant difference.



Frogmore Care and Wellbeing Centre were absolutely elated to have their neglected garden transformed and given the care and attention that it desperately needed.

100 volunteers raked leaves across 8 acres of land at Frimhurst Family House, a unique residential center that offers respite and support to families facing poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion.



## St. Peter's Church

Pride in Place award: £5,000 | Total project cost: £6,206

Celebrating Community

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Funding enabled St Peter's Church and the Lighthouse Club to deliver a vibrant and impactful program for children and young people in the community. Themed sessions such as *Love Farnborough* and *Adventure to Africa* encouraged environmental awareness, cultural exploration, and community pride through creative activities, games, and discussions. A Kids Sleepover brought together 50 children aged 7–11 for a weekend of crafts, games, and shared meals, providing a safe and inclusive space to build friendships and enjoy new experiences.



Lighthouse club parent said:  
“This is a safe space where my daughter can come to meet other children and I know she will always have fun – she always comes out covered in paint or pen or with some crazy creation”

Lighthouse Club child: “I wish Lighthouse club was every day”

The youth programme was expanded into two distinct groups: **Youth Café**, a relaxed and supportive environment offering affordable meals, games, and life skills workshops such as baking, sewing, and boxing; and **Encounter**, which focused on personal development. Over 60 young people regularly attended these sessions, with many reporting increased confidence, new friendships, and a strong sense of belonging.

Sleepover parent: “Thank you very much for running the Sleepover! Z & S had an amazing time! They were still buzzing on Sunday. Yes, tired but really happy how it all went! We were so overjoyed to see the video and what a great time they've had! Full of activities and fun. So thank you for this opportunity”



# The Aldershot Civic Society

Pride in Place award: £5,000 | Total project cost: £20,000

## Municipal Gardens

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The Friends of Municipal Gardens successfully revitalised key areas of the park by replacing dead hedging with Ilex Crenata and replanting lost shrubs and perennials. A dedicated community group now runs weekly volunteer-led maintenance sessions, fostering a strong sense of local ownership and pride. The project has significantly enhanced the park's appearance for everyday users and memorial service attendees, and has received widespread appreciation from the public, along with valuable support from SERCO.



Several local people from the neighbourhood have been inspired to join our gardening team

People who use the park regularly, whether walking their dog or walking into town, have benefitted from the improved environment

We have had many compliments and thanks for our work



## The Rushmoor Binfluencers (Prev. Rushmoor Eco Warriors)

Pride in Place award: £3,773 | Total project cost: £3,773

Cleaner Streets for Rushmoor

A dedicated community litter-picking group committed to keeping Rushmoor clean and promoting local pride. They volunteer at local events such as Picnic and Pop and Victoria Day and have partnered with Aldershot and Fleet Rugby Club, Wellesley Residents Association, Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, Surrey Sustainability Society, North Camp Community Support Group, and North Camp Methodist Church. They support schools and youth groups with tailored sessions on litter and recycling and help transform outdoor spaces for community projects. They also helped a supported accommodation clean up their outside area, and one volunteer found employment through volunteering with the Binfluencers!



The future generation of our planet's caretakers ❤️ So important to inspire them to look after the natural world. Well done Binfluencers and of course the children of Ferns Primary School.

Their efforts create cleaner, safer neighbourhoods, strengthen community cohesion, and improve wellbeing. Litter picking doesn't just tidy up - it builds social connections, boosts emotional health, and encourages physical activity. Together, they make Rushmoor a place everyone can be proud of.

1,026 bags collected

### 2025 sessions:

- 72 group picks
- 4 children's themed events
- 7 sessions with schools
- 49 solo volunteer picks
- 5 uniformed group sessions
- 3 local businesses picks



234 volunteers and 8 dogs!

# AMC Wellbeing Café

Pride in Place award: £2,460 | Total project cost: £3,460

## Aldershot Heritage Pictures

The Aldershot Heritage Pictures project is a community arts initiative designed to celebrate Aldershot’s history while supporting local wellbeing. The project created 15 handmade applique pictures depicting heritage landmarks such as the Wellington Statue, the Barracks, the Observatory, and the Prince Consort Library.

The artworks were produced using a wide range of crafting techniques including sewing, embroidery, beading, cross-stitch, clay modelling and wood engraving which taught people how to use different skills and ignited creative interests. The project was delivered through the AMC Wellbeing Café, supported by external workshops and contributions from community groups such as residents of the Beaumont Retirement Village. Each artwork includes a description card explaining its historical relevance.



The pictures were displayed at Victoria Day and around Aldershot Town Centre, forming the basis of a children’s treasure hunt in which participants located each artwork and recorded its corresponding number to earn a certificate.

The project strengthened local connections, encouraged collaboration across community groups and schools, and demonstrated a clear appetite for further creative community-led initiatives in Aldershot.

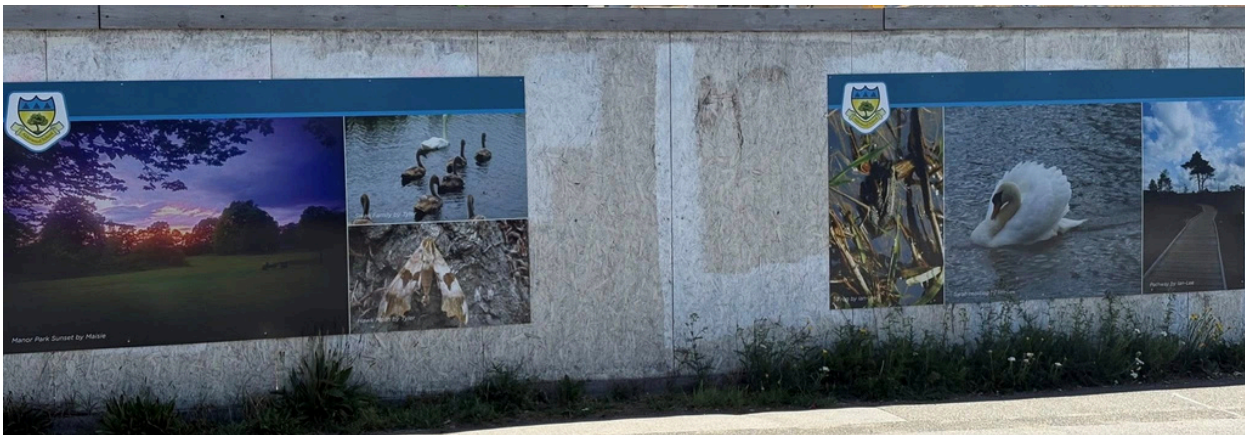
# Alderwood Senior School

Pride in Place award: £1,128 | Total project cost: £1,128

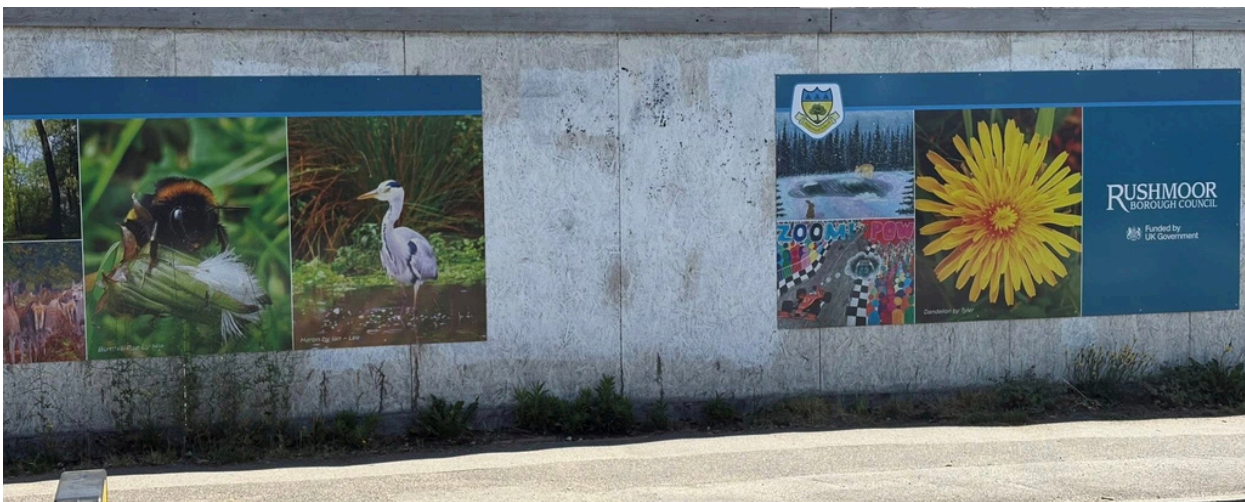
## North Town Art Project

The North Town Art Project has transformed a set of frequently graffitied hoardings into a vibrant outdoor gallery showcasing artwork and photography by Alderwood School students. The installation has brought colour, nature-inspired imagery, and creativity into an area that had long lacked visual appeal.

By replacing blank panels with student-designed artwork, the project has reduced vandalism, encouraged respect for shared spaces, and boosted pride in the local environment. It offered students the chance to see their work professionally displayed, inspiring confidence and creativity across the school.



The project has had a meaningful impact on the community, benefiting around 3,000 residents who pass by the site daily. It has uplifted the area, celebrated young talent, and strengthened community identity by turning a once-neglected space into something people feel proud of.



## Spaces for Growing

Pride in Place award: £1,000 | Total project cost: £1,000

Pride in the Community

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The project aimed to enhance local green spaces by installing a raised planter in the new Prospect community pocket park and distributing 2,000 packets of British native poppy seeds through libraries and weekly markets in Aldershot and Farnborough. It responded to community consultations that showed a strong desire for accessible natural spaces and opportunities to connect with the environment. Drawing on Aldershot's military heritage, the project used the symbolic significance of poppies to create a meaningful visual tribute across the borough.

By encouraging residents to plant seeds and engage with the new green area, the project strengthened community connections, supported wellbeing, and boosted biodiversity through pollinator-friendly planting. Spaces for Growing worked with volunteers and local partners to install the planter, coordinate seed distribution, and support ongoing community involvement.



## Farnborough FC Community Trust

Pride in Place award: £5,000 | Total project cost: £13,478

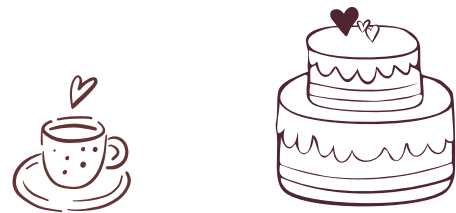
Community Café and Hub

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The Community Hub provides a warm, safe, and welcoming space where residents, parents, and guardians can meet, socialise, and access low-cost refreshments. It also offers public toilet facilities for people using the nearby park, addressing a long-standing gap in local amenities. The Hub also is used for meetings by local businesses and community groups.



The project has successfully created a focal point for social connection and community cohesion. The Hub benefits parents and guardians from nearby Farnborough Grange schools, residents from the surrounding housing areas, and visitors to the green spaces near the stadium. It reduces the need for people to travel longer distances to find a meeting place and contributes to improved wellbeing by bringing people together.



The Hub's development was supported by conversations with the schools, residents and partners who confirmed the need for a safe community space that people could use.

Overall, the project has established a valued space that has strengthened community connection and laid foundations for continued engagement.





# PRIDE IN PLACE

# IMPACT REPORT 2024/25

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**RUSHMOOR**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



# IMPACT REPORT 2024/25

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## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES GRANT FUND

# FOREWORD

It is wonderful to celebrate the energy and passion shown by the local groups who benefited from Rushmoor Borough Council's Supporting Communities grants scheme in 2024-25.

Organisations of all sizes from across the borough came forward with inspiring ideas to bring people together and make a real difference in our communities.

With grants of up to £1,000, the scheme offered flexible support for small projects that have a big impact.

This year's focus sparked a fantastic range of initiatives that reflect the very best of Rushmoor's community spirit.

The objectives were:

- Connecting communities
- Improving wellbeing
- Supporting young people
- Easing financial pressures

What truly stands out is the commitment to all in our community shown by the groups involved. Their projects are helping residents feel more supported and more connected, especially at a time when many are facing real challenges.

This report celebrates their achievements and the positive change they are creating across our borough. I hope it encourages even more local organisations to get involved and continue building a stronger, more connected Rushmoor.

# INTRODUCTION

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Rushmoor BC's Supporting Communities grants scheme was open to applications during September and October 2024 for projects that would make a difference to people's lives and help bring communities together. The funding of up to £1000, was open to a wide variety of organisations active in the local community.

The aim of this grant scheme is to provide flexible funding for projects that will make a difference to local people's lives.

Our focus for this scheme linked to Rushmoor's Supporting Communities Strategy and aimed to support small, local projects addressing at least one of these themes:

- Connecting communities
- Improving physical and mental health
- Providing aspirations for young people and increasing their resilience
- Helping with economic hardship
- Easing cost of living pressures

Forty-two applications were received, and twenty-eight were granted funding, of which six were fully funded and the rest received partial awards. A further ten applications were agreed to be more appropriately funded via other available Rushmoor BC funding streams.

Groups have up to twelve months in which to spend their grant and complete their project or activity, and this report gathers together much of the feedback received from groups as a condition of receiving a grant.

# GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024

## SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED

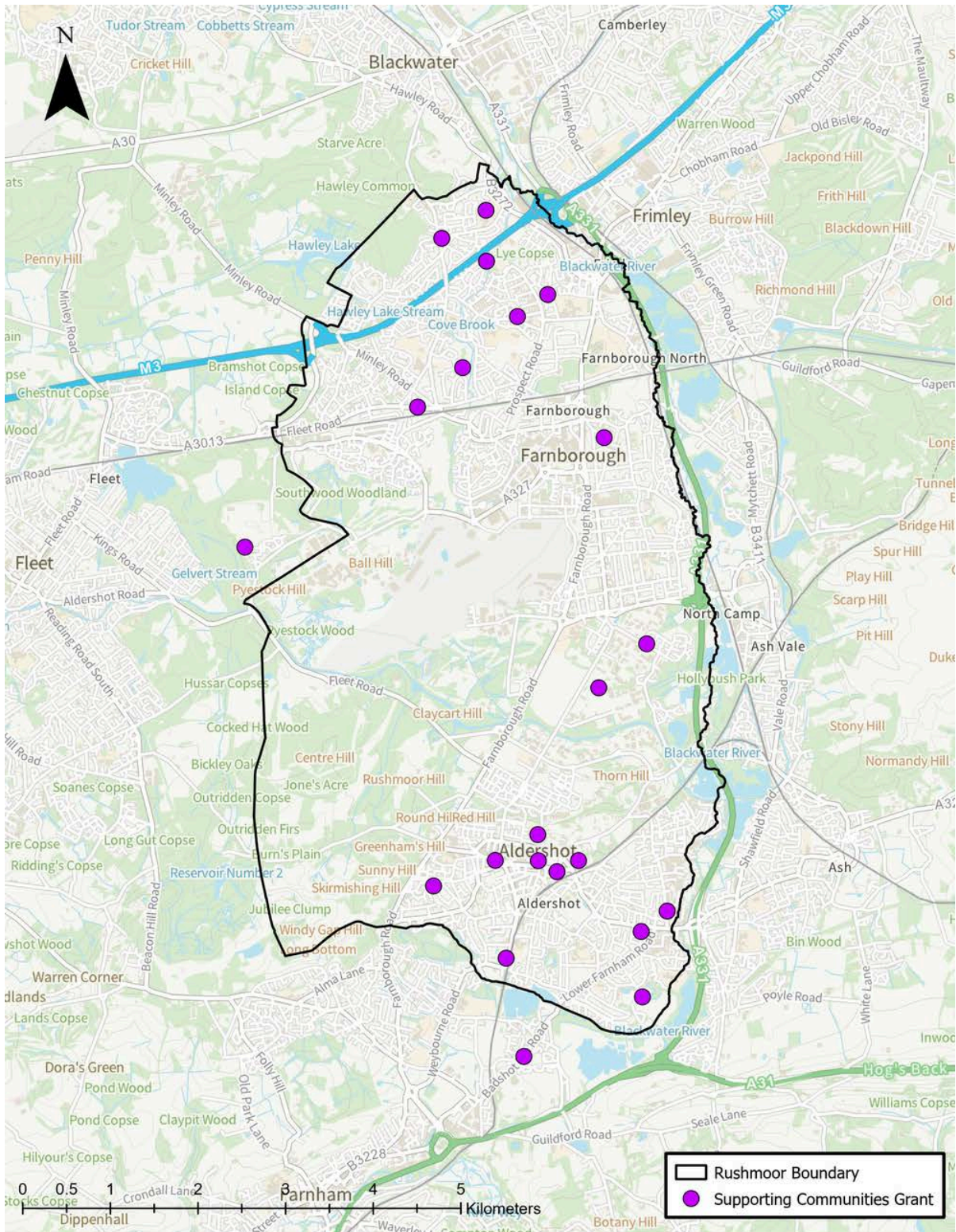
Applicant	Project	Grant award (£)
3rd Farnborough Scouts	Replace clubroom tables and chairs	750
Marlborough Infant School	Imaginative Play Area	684
Little Bears Toddler Group	Play mats and essentials	174
Aldershot Supporters Trust FC	Replace football kit and equipment	700
HomeStart Hampshire	Festive Family Gifts	750
Shots in the Community Foundation	Veterans Christmas Lunch	1000
Rushmoor Concert Band	Purchase new sheet music	895
The Vine	School holiday free lunch packs for families in need	750
Fernlea Preschool (Joy Harris)	Classroom furniture	746
1st Cove Cubs	Group Camp 2025	581
Talavera Infant School	Talavera Families Support Hub	750
Aldershot Underwood Bowling Club	Ditching mat replacement	500
Aldershot Cricket Club	Clubs Volunteer coaching qualifications	675
St. Peter's Church	Foodbank set up	1000

# GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024/25

## SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED

Applicant	Project	Grant award (£)
MHA Communities	Seated Pilates and activities	715
3rd Cove Brownies	Activities for club	600
Rushmoor Healthy Living	Rehab induction class	750
Community Grub Hub	Accessing additional services	840
Aldershot Methodist Church	AMC Wellbeing Café	700
Hartland Men's Shed	Lathe purchase	950
14th Aldershot (Pegasus) Scout Group	Outdoor activities and heaters	750
4th Aldershot Scouts	Replacement of group tents	800
Oak Farm Learning and Activities Centre	Celebrating OFLAC FAB Café	650
Tice's Meadow	Nestbox Buildathon	570
6th Farnborough Scout Group	Day of adventurous activities	750
2nd Cove Cub Pack	Science Museum Trip	550
Rushmoor Royals	Equipment for swimming competitions	700
Rushmoor Artistic Swimming Club	Costumes and courses for coaches/judges	720

# AWARDS 2024 - 2025



This map illustrates distribution of awards throughout the Borough. Some awards aren't shown as a marker if they span a wider area or multiple locations. A small number of awards appear outside the borough, this is where the project involves Rushmoor residents, however the group's base is located just outside the border.

# FEEDBACK FROM PROJECTS AWARDED IN 2024/25

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## Marlborough Infant School

£684

### Imaginative Play

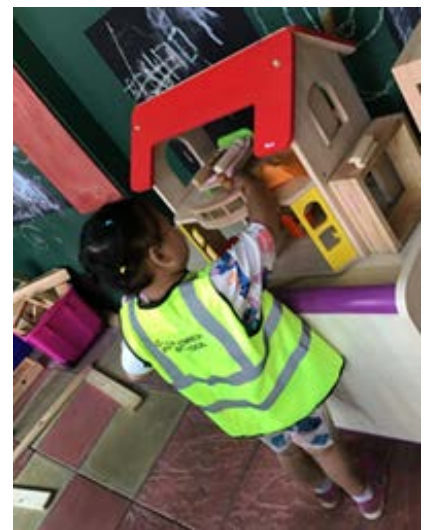
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The School bought resources for its outside classroom, rebranded as “The Calm Castle”. It includes small world play animals and a table to put them on to promote language and imagination with the preschool children. Also a sturdy outside toy garage and floor mat, and a dolls house and peg people that continue the small world imaginative play and enable the children to play out their own lives as well as imagined scenarios. Bean bags and mats furnished the book corner and made it cosy and comfortable.

There are morning sessions for the preschool to bring the children in as part of their transition into school. This has benefited the children who start school in September and their families. Parents and the preschool have commented that they are feeling positive and calm about the move to school and are already talking about it with more positivity than before.

The space and resources are used every day by the children at lunchtimes. The Calm Castle is used for children who need space away from the noise and hectic movement that the playground provides. Many children benefit hugely from having somewhere to escape and engage in calmer, quieter activities.

10 – 30 children use the resource daily.



## Shots in the Community Foundation

£1000

### Veterans Christmas Lunch

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The Foundation provided a free two-course Christmas lunch to military veterans. This has helped its aims of reducing veteran isolation and keeping them sociable. By bringing them together for special occasions, that sense of camaraderie and belongingness is renewed.

The Foundation has had plenty of positive feedback from attendees, and now see some more veterans on a regular basis at monthly coffee mornings.

70 military veterans (and family) benefited. The majority of these were over the age of 50 but there were some younger veterans.

“I have met people that I would not previously have met. Engaging with others has been far more beneficial than I could have imagined”

“Our week is brightened up immensely. Swapping stories with our sort of folk is great. Something for this 92 year old veteran to look forward to”



## Rushmoor Concert Band

£900

Purchase of new sheet music

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The band has been re-invigorated with new music, from modern movie scores such as “No time to Die”, through to Popular pieces such as “Adele in Symphony”, and “Fairytale of New York”. These were played at concerts in 2025 to thousands of people in the local community, including at the Armed Forces Day, and the Aldershot Proms in the Park.

The project has breathed new life into the band and the music it performs to the community. It’s also encouraging to see audiences grow and people return time and time again.

Sheet music is a long-lasting asset that’s shared among other bands in the area, so it will be played many times over by hundreds of players over the years and decades to come.



“Playing great arrangements of modern music has given me a renewed reason to return to playing music”  
- *Band Member*



## 4<sup>th</sup> Aldershot Scouts

£800

### Replacement of Group tents

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The grant purchased four new 4-man tents for use by the Scout, Cub and Beaver groups run by the 4<sup>th</sup> Aldershot volunteering teams. These were used for the first time in August at the annual summer camp at Ferny Crofts campsite in the New Forest. 28 children from Aldershot attended for the week and spent their time building confidence by participating in a wide range of outdoor adventure activities.

The tents provided camping accommodation for 16 Cubs and Beavers. The Cubs and Beavers all learnt to how erect the tents and worked together as teams to keep their tents clean and tidy for the week.

The camp was a huge success with a lot more children able to attend than many Scout groups would usually consider taking, (28 children for 7 nights is quite a large camp).

The tents have been cleaned and safely stored at the Group HQ in Aldershot. They will be used again for future summer camps and may be used for other expeditions and trips that the group go on.

The children staying in the new tents described them as ‘wicked’ and were happy to boast they had the best tents on camp!



## St. Peter's Church, Farnborough

£1000

### Set up of new foodbank

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The purpose of this grant was to enable the establishment of a foodbank distribution centre at St Peter's Church in partnership with Farnborough Foodbank and under the umbrella of Trussell.

St Peter's Church opened as a distribution centre in March 2025 and since then opens every Tuesday afternoon between 2-4.30pm. In the first 14 weeks of operating 51 referrals were fulfilled which represents 143 people in Rushmoor fed (81 adults and 62 children).

Just six months in, the project has been successfully set up with over 25 recruited and trained volunteers. It is helping to serve the people of Rushmoor on a weekly basis who are referred for emergency food support. Links have been made with the wider church community activities, particularly for children and families, via the Hub, an after-school club held in St Peter's Parish centre on a Tuesday afternoon.

"Thank you very much, means a lot to me"

"I would like to say a massive thank you from myself and on behalf of my Uncle to yourself and all the team at St Peter's. You really did take such a weight off my shoulders helping him and I can't thank you enough"

"I just want to say a heartfelt thank you for coming through for me in this difficult season"



## Oak Farm Learning and Activities Centre (OFLAC)

£650

### Celebrating OFLAC Café volunteers, and essential equipment

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OFLAC held a Celebration event to mark the graduation of participants who completed twelve months of training in the OFLAC Café at Farnborough Library, as well as those that achieved their Food Foundation qualification through MCG Training.

The grant allowed OFLAC to recognise these achievements in a meaningful way, boosting participants' confidence and sense of pride and motivation to succeed. 22 OFLAC members, staff and volunteers attended the celebration. 10-12 adults with learning difficulties are supported each year through training and work experience placements.

OFLAC also purchased some new and essential equipment for the Café, which will continue to benefit new learners by providing a safe, practical and supportive environment to learn valuable life and employment skills.

Graduates said how proud they were to be celebrated for their achievements, and family members and support workers commented on how much progress they had seen in their loved ones' skills, independence and happiness since taking part in the training.



## Tice's Meadow Bird Group

£570

### Nestbox Buildathon

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The grant was used to purchase materials and tools necessary to build and decorate the bird boxes for a community volunteer Buildathon in February 2025. The funding enabled various groups in the community to build, decorate and utilise bird boxes.

1000 nest boxes were built using all the materials purchased, and 50 local people attended through the day to help build and decorate the nest boxes. Painting the boxes were 10+ local families, 1<sup>st</sup> Aldershot Brownie Pack and Parkside Aldershot.

Decorating of six boxes was also carried out at Waverley Grange Care Home involving as many residents as possible.

The boxes were distributed around the community, such as local green spaces, gardens, farms, schools and allotments.



## Rushmoor Royals Swimming Club

£700

Equipment for swimming competitions

The grant purchased a Flash Start unit and a printer to support the swimming competitions hosted throughout the year.

The club hosted competitions in March, May, June and July, and the new equipment played a key role in ensuring these meets ran smoothly and stayed on schedule, as each competition attracts over 300 swimmers.

Importantly, the Flash Start unit enabled several hearing-impaired athletes to compete, making these events more inclusive. This equipment continues to make a significant difference in improving accessibility for all participants.



## Home-Start Hampshire

£750

### Festive family gifts

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Home-Start Hampshire supports families with children aged 0-11 years who, for a myriad of reasons, are finding life challenging.

The impact of financial worries extends beyond housing and finance; stress about finances can impact all areas of life including family relationships and mental and physical health. Many families are feeling isolated and overwhelmed and do not know where to go for support.

Support is focused on helping families make sustainable changes for the long-term benefit of the whole family unit. For the festive period in 2024 Home-Start wanted to be able to provide families with some short-term reprieve, and were able to do this by providing 25 of its supported families, (approximately 32 adults and 40 children), with a £30 grocery voucher..

Vouchers were distributed to families in December and January and the positive impact was significant. Vouchers enabled families a little breathing space at a time of year when financial pressure is often heightened. For those who rely on food banks and similar organisations, the vouchers gave families the opportunity to go shopping themselves and have some independence with the items there were purchasing. The unexpected uplift was welcomed by families and the joy it bought our staff and volunteers to deliver this was also incredibly rewarding.

Families said how welcome the £30 voucher was and what a difference it made to their finances short term, which had a positive impact on their wellbeing too.

## Aldershot Underwood Bowling Club


£500

### Ditching mat replacement

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The grant helped replace the rubber lining for the Green's ditches. The old ditch liners were made of soft foam rubber and were degenerating due to their age and had moss/grass growing on/through them. This, along with covering the ditch walls, means that the Green itself looks smarter and has helped instil a renewed sense of pride in the Club.

There are 47 playing members, all of whom directly benefit from the improvement in the ditch liners. Plus, the Club hosts up to three games per week during the playing season, and has hosted the Dolly Anstey, a prestigious North Hampshire Women's Bowling Association competition and received many favourable comments about the condition of the Green. As the new ditch liners can be lifted easily, they will be cleaned and stored indoors over the winter, so should be useable for many years to come.



"They look so much smarter"

"The new liners have helped us to maintain the very high standard of our Green for members and visiting teams"

## 14th Aldershot (Pegasus) Scout Group

£750

### Outdoor activities and heaters

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The grant was used to buy heaters that were installed at the Group's hall. Installing modern heating was cost efficient and the hall was kept warmer during winter months. The shelter and tables have been used for camping and meetings.

It directly benefits 93 children aged between 4 to 14 and the adult volunteers.

Children have been happy that the hall is warmer during the meetings.

## Community Grub Hub

£850

### Accessing additional support services

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The grant contributed towards the utility costs of the Help Hub at the Grub Hub, which provides signposting and support to Grub Hub visitors in partnership with Citizens Advice.

The Help Hub has helped 245 guests to date and about seven new guests each week. From building awareness of support available and helping to access it to directly supporting guests on a weekly basis, feedback from guests suggests that this support has been critical in improving their circumstances, health and lifestyles.

‘I arrived here with nothing , you have given more so much more than just the food and cleaning products , you have reminded me there are good people. I feel safe here.’ (Woman housed at the refuge)

## Talavera Infant School

£750

### Talavera Families Support Hub

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The Talavera Families Support Hub began in September 2024 to create a warm and helpful environment for parents of children with special needs who attend the school. It aims to provide parents with a network of friends as well as professional advice from support agencies.

The grant was used to organise two parent workshops run by Mustard Seed Autism Trust focussed on Sensory and Physical Occupational Therapy. Remaining funds were used to offer direct support by Mustard Seed staff.

In total the grant has allowed 20 families to access Occupational Therapy support.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Cove Cub Pack

**£550**

### London Science Museum trip

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The grant supported the travel for a trip to the Science Museum in London by 17 Cubs and Beavers and volunteer adults.

Cubs from all different backgrounds went on the visit. It was very engaging, and entertaining, learning about space, forces, and other science topics. The Cubs went out to space in the 4D cinema!

The feedback from the Cubs was fantastic, and they were all very happy. The attentiveness from a number of neurodiverse cubs, showed how well it was put together.

## Rushmoor Artistic Swimming Club

**£720**

### Courses for volunteer coaches and judges

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The grant part-funded training for four volunteers/coaches and this has made a huge difference to the club, which has been able to provide additional training sessions for the 156 members and to open new trials for new young members. The entire club has benefited from the funding which is amazing.

This resulted in successes at the National Championships, regional championships, and successful grading days. The club is growing and is welcoming more and more boys and girls every six months.

Two of the Club's younger coaches gained recognition at the Swim England South East Awards, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for Young Volunteer of the Year.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Farnborough Scouts

£750

#### Replace Clubroom tables and chairs

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The Scout group was able to purchase 80 stackable chairs and trolleys, and 8 Go Pac Tables. These are now being used several times a week by over 140 members of the group from Squirrels to Explorers for a range of activities. They are also used by other community groups who use the Scout HQ from time to time.

The equipment is reliable, safe, and makes good use of the facility's limited storage facilities. It will continue to benefit the group for many years to come.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Farnborough Scout Group

£750

#### Day of adventurous activities

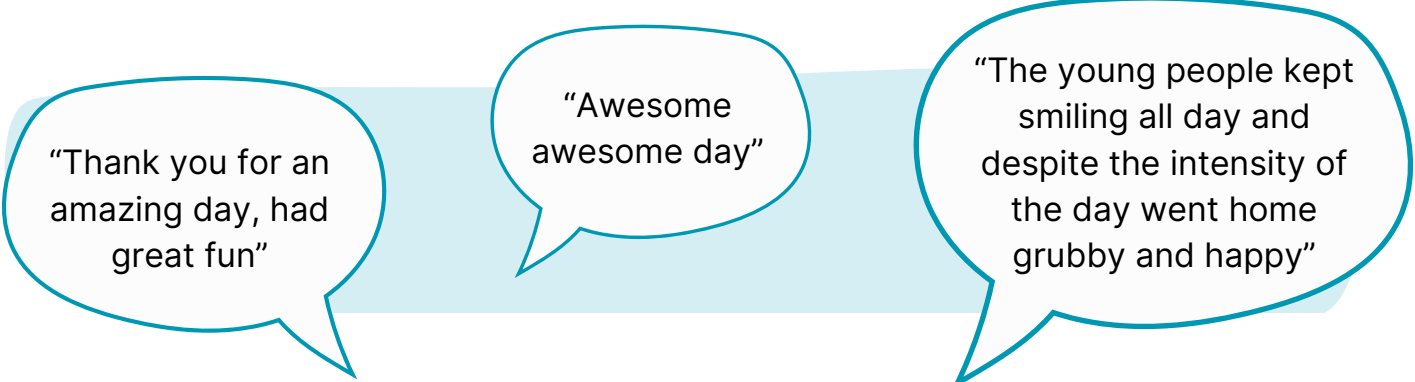
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The grant was used towards the sole occupancy of the campsite for the Group day camp, providing a day packed with adventurous activities for 60 children aged 8 to 14 who might not otherwise get to experience this. Activities were Air rifle shooting, Archery, Climbing, tomahawk throwing and survival skills. All attendees developed their skills, got to take part in a larger than normal event and improved the visibility of a community charity.

60 Children gained access to the adventurous activities.

13 leaders/instructors were able to use their permits/qualifications.

Parents of 60 children got to see their children experience adventure and come home tired yet excited.



"Thank you for an amazing day, had great fun"

"Awesome awesome day"

"The young people kept smiling all day and despite the intensity of the day went home grubby and happy"

## Aldershot Cricket Club

**£475**

### Club volunteer coaching qualifications

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The funding allowed four of the Club's volunteer coaches to gain their ECB coaching qualifications. Two coaches undertook ECB Foundation Coach awards, and two more undertook the ECB Core Coach award.

They previously held no coaching experience but wanted to volunteer for coaching sessions in the youth section. The coaching qualifications have allowed them to get expert guidance and further understanding on how to effectively deliver cricket sessions for the youth section players. Having this knowledge has benefited players with guidance on technical skills.

The coaches who undertook their qualification have stated they are thankful for giving them the opportunity to enhance their coaching skills.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Cove Brownies

**£750**

### Club activities

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The Group focussed the grant on educating the girls on nature and wildlife and enjoying this in our local community. The girls learned about hedgehogs and birds and the Group has purchased kits to create hedgehog houses and bird feeders so they can continue to enjoy nature with their families by looking out for them at home.

They also booked Crocodile Encounter, a very informative 90-minute workshop where all the girls got to hold the majority of these rescued animals and learn about animal care and welfare. It was great to see the girls engage, ask questions and gain confidence by holding the animals.

There was also a sleepover at Legoland. The girls stayed in the learning academy and the trip included a special robotics workshop where they were given a task to create a new Legoland ride and build a prototype with Lego, synchronised music and lights.

Feedback from parents for the activities has been extremely positive.

## **Fernlea Preschool**

**£750**

### **Classroom furniture**

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The project was to furnish the new building the Preschool had fundraised towards. The grant went towards the cost of chairs for the children's use and enabled the separation of different age groups with different needs, using the space to enhance the children's learning.

The children have benefited by having a more relaxed and quieter environment in which to learn.

Current and new parents have all commented on the lovely space. The children are really keen to work in the new environment, and equally the staff have commented on the benefits of working with one age group of children.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Cove Scout Group**

**£581**

### **Group Camp 2025**

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The grant covered camp fees for 40 young people on the Group's Summer Camp, meaning more young people could benefit from time away learning new life skills.

Ages ranged from 4 through to 14, with ten Adult Leaders present throughout the whole week.

The low cost of the camp was seen as great value by parents, who appreciate the time of the volunteers organising such a great camp.

## Aldershot FC Supporters Trust

**£700**

Replace football kit and training equipment

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The group funded new football kit for its Sunday league football team. The difference this has made has been very refreshing! The previous kit was worn, torn and tatted. Now, the team are able to play in brand new shirts, and shorts.

20 players have benefited, of ages are between 16 – 30, some of whom genuinely suffer with hardship away from football.

## The Vine Centre


**£750**

School holiday free lunch packs for vulnerable families

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This grant was used to help pay for the food allocated to families as part of the Centre's 'Kids Lunches' project during the school summer holiday in 2025, offering assistance to families with the cost of lunches. Each family was offered enough food to cover 5 lunches per child per week. Families were able to access this project quickly and easily as well as find out about other services the Vine Centre has to offer.

The funding directly benefited 72 children from 28 families.



"I honestly don't know how I would have coped this summer without the Vine Centre"



# SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES GRANT FUND

# IMPACT REPORT 2024/25

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