



Community Links Network

Quarterly Update

February 2026

Welcome to the 6th edition of the Community Links Network Quarterly Update!

Thank you for reading this quarters edition of our update newsletter. We value your continued feedback and involvement – so please click [here](#) to let us know what you think we do well, and how we could be even better.

Contents

- CLN Meeting – 3rd February 2026
- Grants – apply now!
- Introduction from the new Capacity Officer
- Spotlight

As always:

- Our Community Fundin
- Our Events – Community Funding
- Our Events – 10k races – Run or volunteer!
- Community Group Toolkit
- Communities Team Services
- Final notes



Community Links Network Meeting

3rd February 2026

The latest meeting and the first of the New Year was awash with new faces and people eager to start **planning events** – which was great as that was the topic for the evening!

The session started with hot drinks and introductions from both the staff (read more about our new capacity officer below) and the floor, with attendees making notes and scouting out who to talk to in the networking time allocated later in the meeting.

We were really lucky to have our very own Olivia attend the session who gave a fantastic presentation about planning events and things to consider – a big thank you to Olivia for sharing her expertise!

We were then blessed with another presentation from our colleague Amanda Cox from the Licensing and Enforcement team and who is also the [Safety Advisory Group \(SAG\)](#) Chair. Amanda too delivered an excellent presentation about licences and what is needed when planning an event of all shapes and sizes – thank you Amanda.

The activity for the evening was of course around the challenges faced when planning events and the participation was well received. A big thank you to all those that attended! Most of the challenges were answered throughout the evening which proved helpful for attendees. All the advice and ideas around event planning are also summarised in our [Community Events Toolkit](#).



[Next Meeting – 16th April 2026](#)

We'll be back at the Horizon Centre for our 7th Community Links Network meeting on 16th April 2026, 16:30-18:30pm. Click [here](#) to secure your ticket!

This session we'll be discussing suicide awareness in young people, and will have [PAPYRUS](#) presenting to share how we can all promote the positive mental health and emotional wellbeing in young people.

We'll also be welcoming our Mindful Towns and Villages Coordinator, Emma and Wellbeing Champions to the evening. With a variety of networking activities to support groups and charities understand our Help Hub services, we'll highlight the benefits of training and how this can help you to support individuals using your services.

Thank you to those that have already signed up.

In the meantime, stay up to date with events, grants and giveaways through our private [Facebook](#) group.

New Capacity Officer

A little introduction from our new capacity officer, Louise Freeman

Hi! I'm Lou, I joined the Communities Team a little over a month ago. Having come all the way from across a bank of desks from the Triage Team within the Help Hub! I have worked in the Help Hub for the last 3 years, mainly as a Triage and Assessment Officer but more recently involved in falls and frailty projects with the NHS and the community.

Additionally dealing with a project for young people (secondary school age) and their attendance, with this also being a large focus on the community and what it can offer our young people. I am a Broadland resident and have young children myself, so community is very important to us.



This session was my first CLN, and it was so good to see and hear of all the great work that is happening in our communities and I am proud to be a part of that.

Spotlight – Tiny Tots, Lingwood



Tiny Tots is a parent and toddler group in Lingwood and is led by Helen and her amazing volunteers. In fact, Tiny Tots has always been run on an entirely voluntary basis, relying on people to give up their time to provide such an incredible experience to all who attend – and for a very low entry fee.

Tiny Tots was first established in the 1980's. The group has evolved over the years and have achieved a great deal, including Norfolk's Parent and Toddler Group Quality Mark, and being shortlisted for Broadland's Community Organisation of the Year award.

Tiny Tots is a well-known popular group renowned for their friendly atmosphere and excellent facilities being based at Lingwood's village hall.

Families can enjoy craft, sensory and messy play activities, a dedicated baby area with weighing facility and lots of toys, games, puzzles and books. The group has a different guest each week, representing various aspects of children and families, many of whom are from the local community.

Further details about the group, can be found [here](#)

Tiny Tots runs Every Tuesday (term time only) from 9:15am – 11:15am, and costs just £3. Snacks are included in the small fee and every session is ended with group singing.

“We welcome new families anytime, so do come and give us a try!”

Interesting Reads

Here at South Norfolk and Broadland District Council we have monthly Horizon scanning documents to help us keep up to date with important legislation and Bills, both locally and nationally. Below are a few that we have cherry picked for you and may be of some assistance.

[Opportunity gap facing boys from low-income families aged 5 and beyond](#)

This report looks beneath the headline data to focus on one group particularly at risk of being overlooked, or under-served, by policy making from an early age: boys from low-income families. It provides a data-driven picture of the opportunity gap facing this group at age 5 and beyond, the root causes of attainment gaps and how these are linked to systemic failings in the way government works.

[Social media ban for under-16s](#)

Social media ban for under-16s - The Government is to launch a consultation on a potential ban of social media for under-16s, aiming to empower Ofsted to inspect school policies on phone use. The consultation will seek input from parents and young people, with a government response expected in the summer.

[New Town of Culture contest set to boost local pride](#)

Following the success of the City of Culture contest, the Government has announced that the new scheme has been inspired by this 'proven model for cultural placemaking' and is designed to 'spotlight the cultural contribution of towns to our national story'. The successful finalist will win £3m, while the two runners up are to receive £250,000 each to support them in providing an 'ambitious programme of cultural activity' that year.

[Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024-26](#)

A Bill to make provision about the safeguarding and welfare of children; about support for children in care or leaving care; about regulation of care workers; about regulation of establishments and agencies under Part 2 of the Care Standards Act 2000; about employment of children; about breakfast club provision and school uniform; about attendance of children at school; about regulation of independent educational institutions; about inspections of schools and colleges; about teacher misconduct; about Academies and teachers at Academies; repealing section 128 of the Education Act 2002; about school places and admissions; about establishing new schools; and for connected purposes.

Grants

There's no shortage of funding opportunities out there - but finding the right ones can take time.

We've pulled together a few current grants that may be relevant to your group, including some with upcoming deadlines. This list is fairly broad, so if you'd like help finding something more tailored to your needs, just get in touch - we're happy to help.

[Norfolk Community Fund – Norfolk County Council](#)

Max Value - £2,500 - Deadline – N/A

Norfolk County Council and Crowdfunder have teamed up to support community projects across the county. If your project needs **less than £500**, you can apply without raising any money yourself. For projects asking for **£500 or more**, you'll need to run a fundraising campaign on the Crowdfunder website and raise at least half of your target. Once approved, the council will pledge funding to help you reach your goal.

[Family Hubs Community Fund – Norfolk County Council](#)

Max Value – £10,000 – Deadline – N/A

The Family Hubs Community Fund is designed to support local communities in Norfolk by providing grants to organisations, individuals and community groups who support families with children from conception to 19 years old (25 with SEND).

[Morrisons Foundation](#)

Max Value – £10,000 - Deadline – N/A

Grants are available to registered charities who make a positive difference to local communities in England, Scotland or Wales.

[Tesco Stronger Start Grants](#)

Max Value - £1,500 - Deadline – N/A

Grants are available to all schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations with local good causes that support children and young people in the UK.

[Aviva Community Fund \(with Crowdfunding\)](#)

Max Value - £50,000 Deadline – N/A

Grants are available for not-for-profit organisations in the UK who can raise their initial funding through a crowdfunding campaign for projects that address Aviva's current themes of climate action and financial wellbeing.

Geoffrey Watling Charity

Max Value - £30,000 - Deadline – N/A

Grants are available for local charitable organisations in Norfolk and the Waveney district of Suffolk so that they can continue and develop their work in the community.

Saracen's Norfolk Fund – Norfolk Community Foundation

Max Value - £5,000 - Deadline – N/A

The Fund aims to maintain and strengthen Charity, Faith organisation, Parish/Town Council, Social Enterprise/CIC, and Voluntary/Community Group based projects that are working within deprived communities and supporting vulnerable people within South Norfolk.

Stobart Sustainability Fund

Max Value – Discretionary – Deadline – N/A

Grants are available to UK non-profit organisations, community groups and educational institutions for projects that address climate change, reduce carbon emissions or protect the environment.

Hornsea 3 Community Fund - Grantscape

Max Value – up to £100,000 – Deadline – 3rd June 2026

Provided by Ørsted, £700,000 each year is allocated to grants for a 10-year period.. The Fund supports coastal and cable route communities within the vicinity of its Hornsea 3 Offshore Wind Farm off the Norfolk coast, with grants between £500 and £75,000. Please click the link to see eligibility map. To see more information about the Main Communities Fund and see previously funded projects, follow this [link](#).

Mortgage Advice Bureau

Max Value – up to £5,000 – Deadline – 12th March 2026

Grants available 'to help you make a difference in your local Community'. Grants available £500 - £5,000. Grants are awarded on a 3:1 match basis, meaning for every 33 donated, £1 will be matched by the foundation.

Fundraising - Useful Signposting

Norfolk County Council – FREE, monthly Bid Writing Workshops

- **What it is:** Workshops for VCSE groups to improve the quality and success rate of funding applications.
- **What's covered:** Bid writing techniques, funding strategy, and compliance.
- **More info:** [External funding support - Norfolk County Council](#)



Norfolk Community Foundation – Application Guidance & Tips

- **What it is:** Offers detailed guidance on how to apply for funding, including eligibility, governance, and application tips.
- **What's covered:** Step-by-step guides, videos, and advice for writing stronger bids.
- **More info:** [Support | Norfolk Community Foundation](#)



Get Grants – Fundraising Training & Webinars

- **What it is:** A national organisation offering free and paid training for fundraisers.
- **What's covered:** Community fundraising, bid writing, corporate sponsorship, and more.
- **Why it's useful:** Practical, beginner-friendly sessions with real-world examples.
- **More info:** [Get Grants | Fundraising Training & Support](#)



NCVO

- **What it is:** A knowledge hub from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.
- **What's covered:** Writing a fundraising strategy, diversifying income, supporter engagement.
- **Why it's useful:** Ideal for groups looking to build long-term sustainability as well as clear and concise guidance.
- **More info:** [Funding and income | NCVO](#)



Our Community Funding

We have several internal opportunities for funding, with the current available options listed below. Throughout the financial year, these can be subject to change, so it's worth keeping an eye on the main funding page linked above, so you don't miss any opportunities.

[Get It Started Grant \(Broadland\)](#)- Funding for individuals or groups to start projects or activities that bring communities together.

[Go For It Grant \(South Norfolk\)](#) - Funding for individuals or groups to start projects or activities that bring communities together.

[Keep It Going Grant](#) - Funding for community groups facing increased expenditure due to rising costs.



[Members Ward funding – Broadland – South Norfolk](#) -

Each of our district councillors has an annual budget of £1,000 to spend on projects within their wards.

[Broadland's Community at Heart Lottery](#) - Our weekly online lottery helps non-profit associations or charities raise funds year-round at no cost.

[Homes for Ukraine Community Support Grant](#) - Supporting activities that help address the needs of Ukrainian refugees.



[Community Action Fund \(CAF\)](#) - South Norfolk organisations only.

There will be many community initiatives which will require larger amounts of funding. The Community Action Fund (CAF) is provided to support and fund these initiatives.

Local District Councillors are responsible for considering and proposing applications between £1,000 and £15,000 from the CAF fund. To apply please directly approach your local member who will apply on your behalf. To find your [Local District Councillor](#) visit our website

Deadline 22nd February 2026. Reopening again from April 2026.

Our Events: Community Awards

Our Community Awards recognise and celebrate the incredible individuals across our districts who go above and beyond to support others, strengthen communities and make a real difference.



We want to celebrate the unsung heroes of your community.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile to help others? A dedicated volunteer, an inspiring young person or a local organisation making a real difference to your community?

The community awards celebrate the extraordinary individuals and organisation who give their time, energy and passion to make our districts a better place to live, work and visit. This could be through organising community events, supporting vulnerable people, or helping to protect the environment.

To nominate and find out more information about the award categories, please visit:

[South Norfolk Community Awards](#)

[Broadland Community Awards](#)

Why it matters

- **Give back to those who give so much** – A simple nomination is a great way to say 'thank you'.
- **Raise awareness** – Help highlight the amazing work happening in our community.
- **A chance to win £250 for charity** – Winners will receive a £250 donation to give to a local charity or organisation of their choice.
- **Celebrate together** – Shortlisted nominees will be invited to a special awards evening, where their hard work can be recognised in front of family, friends and community leaders.

Encourage others to back you, share your story and celebrate the impact you're making.

Community Group Toolkit



As always, our community group toolkit is free to view and download [HERE](#). It provides support for the most common issues faced by VCSE groups. It is great for those of you getting started and can provide useful reminders tips for more well-established organisations.

To contact us directly for any *queries or assistance with community groups and organisations*, please contact : communitycapacity@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. For *general communities enquiries* please contact: communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. Don't forget to join our [Facebook page](#) for regular updates.

Communities Team Services

Our South Norfolk and Broadland Council Communities Team offers a wide range of services and projects. Below, you'll find brief descriptions of some of these services with direct links for more information. You can also explore the full range of services [here](#).

[Active Now](#)

A simplified referral pathway for health professionals to help patients become more physically active. For those doing less than 30 mins of exercise a week or living with long-term conditions, it's part of a coordinated approach to improving health through movement.

[Tots2Teens](#)

Holiday activities for 5–16-year-olds, including inclusive sessions for children with additional needs. Discounts are available for families on means-tested benefits, and eligible children can access free sessions through Big Norfolk Holiday Fun.

[Yours Sincerely](#)

A free bi-monthly newsletter offering friendly, postal contact for residents who'd like more connection. Includes wellbeing tips, local updates, support info, and light-hearted content like quizzes.

[Community at Heart Lottery](#)

Broadland District Council's Community at Heart Lottery is a weekly online lottery created to support local good causes across the district.

[Better Off Calculator](#)

A simple tool to check what financial support you may be entitled to - including help you might not know about.

[Mindful Towns and Villages](#)

Local areas where trained Wellbeing Champions offer safe, supportive spaces to talk about mental health. These community members complete awareness training and help signpost to further support.

Get help



Everybody needs a bit of extra support from time to time and the Help Hub makes sure people get what they need as soon as possible. Please share our services with people in your communities.

To get help with any of these issues, or with any other problems:

- [Complete a request for support form](#)
- If you live in Broadland call 01603 430431 or email helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk
- If you live in South Norfolk call 01508 533933 or email helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Our telephone lines are open **Monday to Friday from 8:15am until 10pm** (excluding bank holidays). Emails will be monitored within office hours of Monday to Friday 8am until 5pm (excluding bank holidays).

Final Notes

Did you know that you can hire equipment from us?

We have a range of both indoor and outdoor equipment that can be hired from us. Anything from gazebos, marquees, staging, signage, speakers and even a smoothie bike (yes really!) and everything in between!

Click the link to complete the request form and see our list [Community Equipment Hire](#)



If you are interested in featuring in a future **Quarterly Update** or would like to present at a **Community Links Network Meeting**, please let us know.

[Click here to sign up to the next Community Links Network](#)

Thank you!

Next Community Links Network Meeting;
Thursday 16th April 2026
16:30-18:30pm
Horizon Business Centre, Peachman Way NR7 0WF