

Community Links Network

Quarterly Update

April 2026

Welcome to the 7th 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 we do well, and how we could do even better!



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Community Links Network (CLN) Meeting



16th April 2026

Hello, and welcome to the 7th edition of the Community Links Network!

The session started off with hot drinks and introductions from the Communities Team and Emma from our Mindful Towns and Villages team.

Next, was an emotive and personal presentation from the incredible Trevor from the charity [PAPYRUS](#), who are dedicated to the prevention of suicide and the promotion of positive mental health and emotional wellbeing in young people.

Trevor has used his personal experiences to support others, provide training to a wide number of organisations, including football clubs, local councils, schools and of course the CLN community. He has also raised money by taking part in numerous marathons. For further information on this amazing charity, click [here](#).



Emma from Mindful Towns and Villages (MTV) delivered an update on MTV, and how far and wide the project has reached with numbers of volunteers now supporting the cause and helping their local communities. For more information on MTV, or to get involved in training, please click [here](#).

Louise ended the presentation part by sharing information about the Help Hub Triage team, how and when to complete a request for support and the support that is on offer to our residents. Louise explained that community organisations are in a really good place to notice if something isn't quite right with a community member. Their appearance, attendance and behaviours may have changed. Ultimately, you do not have to provide support but knowing where to signpost someone to really helps. If you require any further information about this topic, please click [here](#). If you would like any of the Help Hub leaflets for your group, please do get in touch with the communities team – communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk



Instead of group introductions at the start of the evening, we decided to mix things up (sorry to the more regular attendees!) by playing ...Networking Bingo! Now admittedly there were no prizes to be won, but that didn't deter anyone from playing. This actually made for a really great networking session, with attendees chatting to those on their table, and moving around the room. Thank you for your good sport and it's definitely something we will bring back in the

future...possible small prize pending!

Next Meeting – 16th July 2026

We're going "Out Out!" Our next Community Links Network will be taking place at [The Walled Garden](#) in Little Plumstead on the 16th July 2026 at 16:30-18:30. Click [here](#) to secure your free ticket!

Spotlight – Playing For Cake, South Norfolk and Broadland

Playing For Cake Singing That Helps Norfolk Feel Better!

Playing for Cake is a Norfolk charity bringing people together through the simple joy of singing. Their sessions are friendly, inclusive and designed to help people breathe easier, feel brighter and connect with others in a welcoming space. They are based in and around Norfolk in places such as:



- **Aylsham • Blofield • Kings Lynn • Long Stratton • North Walsham**
- **Sheringham • Norwich**

They run three key types of sessions across the county:

Stronger Breaths & Brighter Voices supports people with lung conditions, Parkinson's, or anyone wanting to strengthen their breathing and voice. Led by trained professionals, these sessions blend gentle movement, breathwork and uplifting songs to help people

feel physically and emotionally better.



For those looking for fun, variety, and a boost of confidence, their Health, Harmony & Happiness sessions offer lively, themed singing with plenty of musical mischief. If you prefer something gentler, Health, Wellbeing & Fun provides a relaxed, café-style sing-along with a new theme each week, perfect for unwinding and meeting friendly

faces. Everyone is welcome, including carers and the cared-for and their sessions are dementia-accessible. There is no booking needed and no pressure to perform. Playing for Cake operate a pay-as-you-feel model, so cost is never a barrier and they're grateful for any donations that help them keep sessions going.

You bring yourself and they'll add the sprinkles. Whether you want to breathe easier, think more clearly, or simply share a smile, singing really does make you feel better.

Pop in and see what they're all about!

More information at www.playingforcake.uk Or feel free to contact Info@playingforcake.uk

Spotlight – Wymondham Community Outreach Project, South Norfolk



Wymondham Community Outreach Project (WCOP) provide a wide range of support in the local community to those who need it most. A rundown of support offered and how groups and individuals can contact the group are listed below.

Rough sleepers/ homeless. We can provide food, tents, roll mats, sleeping bags, facilitate emergency housing applications, benefit applications etc. throughout the period of homelessness.

Household poverty. For families and individuals, we can provide a prompt response.

We can provide a wide range of food supplies and toiletries- very often on the same day of receiving an application. We have the resources to support households with debt, benefit and legal issues. Unfortunately, we are unable to deliver food to households.

We serve families and individuals who are located in and around Wymondham, South Norfolk.

Those requiring help should contact us at:

community@wcop.co.uk or by phone: +44 7512 048727. More information can also be found on their website, [here](#).



The group also held a free community lunch on 28th March in memory of Kevin Hurn, a WCOP Trustee and South Norfolk Councillor. With 60 people in attendance, this was a great gesture to the local community and celebration of the work Kevin Hurn supported locally - all run by volunteers!



Interesting Reads

Here at South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils 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.

[Fraud Strategy 2026 to 2029 - GOV.UK](#)

The strategy is for individuals, businesses, industry partners, law enforcement, regulators and non-profit organisations. The strategy sets out the government's new approach to tackling fraud. It explains how the UK will disrupt the methods used by

criminals, strengthen protection for the public and businesses, and improve how victims are supported. It also outlines a major investment programme and the governance arrangements that will oversee delivery.

[Pride in Place: £319m announced for high street regeneration | LocalGov](#)

The Government has announced a £319m investment package aimed at regenerating high streets and improving community spaces across England, as part of its [Pride in Place](#) strategy.

[Government confirms £100m investment to boost active travel across England | Public Sector News](#)

People across England will benefit from new hands-on training, school programmes and community initiatives to help them walk, wheel and cycle with confidence, following the government's confirmation of more than £100 million in active travel funding.

[Alcohol Licencing](#)

[Alcohol Licencing](#)

The Government has updated the section 182 guidance accompanying the Licensing Act to encourage councils to consider economic growth when making licensing decisions. The new line in the guidance is 1.18.

[High streets to receive £150 million to restore community pride - GOV.UK](#)

A new £150 million fund will help to “breathe new life back into our high streets”, Communities Secretary Steve Reed has announced. The multi-million-pound fund will be targeted at areas which have been hardest hit by high street shop closures, with communities able to use the money to re-open vacant units, spruce up high streets, and improve neglected shop fronts.

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.

[The Paul Bassham Charitable Trust](#)

Max Value – £12,000 – Deadline – N/A

Grants are available for charitable organisations undertaking a variety of social welfare or community activities in Norfolk.

For further information about this grant, please contact communitycapacity@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk as the Trust does not have their own website in which to apply.

Rest Harrow Trust

Max Value - £1,000 – Deadline – N/A

Small grants are available to registered charities in England and Wales for general charitable purposes.

For further information about this grant, please contact communitycapacity@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk as the Trust does not have their own website in which to apply.

The Screwfix Foundation

Max Value - £5,000 – Deadline – 10th May 2026

Grants are available to UK registered charities and not-for-profit organisations for projects that improve, fix, and repair buildings, homes and facilities specifically used by people in need across the UK.

Grocers' Charity Grant

Max Value - £5,000 – Deadline – 1st September 2026

One-off grants are available to small UK registered charities for work in the specific areas of: relief of hardship; children and young people; disability and inclusion; the elderly; health; military; environment and conservation; the arts; and heritage.

Sport England Movement Fund

Max Value - £15,000 – Deadline – N/A

Grants and other resources are available for community groups, local sports clubs and grassroots organisations across England with ideas of how to tackle inequalities and help get more people active as well as new initiatives that improve both environmental sustainability and physical activity opportunities for those who need it most

Asda Foundation; Local Community Spaces Fund

Max Value - £20,000 – Deadline – 28th April 2026

Grants are available for charitable groups to repair, renovate and develop local community spaces to ensure continued delivery of vital activities and services, including addressing loneliness and social isolation.

The Charles Littlewood Hill trust

Max Value – Discretionary – Deadline – 20th May 2026

Grants are available for charitable organisations carrying out social welfare or community activities in Nottinghamshire or Norfolk.

Projects should meet at least one of the Trust's priority objectives as follows

- Community development.
- Personal social services including organisations assisting individuals or families to overcome social deprivation, including people who are homeless or disabled and their carers, single parent and childcare groups and other family support groups.
- Community social activities which promote social engagement for vulnerable people, mitigating against isolation and loneliness.

Postcode places Trust East of England

Max Value - £50,000 – Deadline – 1st July 2026

Unrestricted grants are available for registered charities, community interest companies, and community benefit societies based and working in the east of England whose main activities address the current themes of the Trust. **Please note this fund opens on the 24th June 2026 and closes on the 1st July 2026.**

Subs for Clubs

Max Value - £1,000 – Deadline – N/A

Grants are available to help young people in Norfolk most affected by the cost-of-living rises to continue to participate in out-of-school activities like sport, art, and uniformed activities.

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 \(Broadland\)](#) provides funding for individuals or groups that are inspired to bring communities together to form not-for-profit organisations.

[Go for it Grant \(South Norfolk\)](#) give funding for not-for-profit projects that bring communities together and encourage people to take part

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

[Members Ward Broadland](#) / [Members Ward South Norfolk](#) Each of our district councillors has an annual budget of £1,000 to spend on projects within their wards.

[Community at Heart Lottery \(Broadland only\)](#) 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 \(South Norfolk\)](#) 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 £40,000 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

[Community Facilities Grant \(South Norfolk\)](#).The Community Facilities Grant (CFG) is provided to support and fund capital improvements to a community facility/building. These could be major refurbishments, adding solar panels, moving heat pumps etc.

Local District Councillors are responsible for considering and proposing applications between £10,000 and £50,000 from the CFG fund. To apply please directly approach your local member who will apply on your behalf. To find your Local District Councillor visit our website.

[Community Grant Scheme \(Broadland\)](#) There will be many community initiatives which will require larger amounts of funding. Local District Councillors are responsible for considering and proposing applications between £1,000 and £15,000 from the CGS fund.

Please contact [your local district councillor](#), who will make an application for funding on your behalf.

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 organisations 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](#) – Deadline closes 15th May 2026

[Broadland Community Awards](#) – Deadline closes 28th August 2026

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.



Festival of Volunteering

Are you aware that the UN has declared 2026 the international year of volunteers? To recognise all the key role volunteers play in their communities and also as key drivers of sustainable development worldwide!

In the UK, there is a National Volunteer Week which lands on the first week of June. In celebration of these international and national campaigns, Voluntary Norfolk are promoting a Festival of Volunteering throughout the month of June.



“The Festival of Volunteering is a month-long celebration of volunteers and volunteering...

The Festival will take place across the county, with local groups and VCSEs encouraged to celebrate volunteering through sharing stories, hosting an event or activity, or publicly thanking their volunteers.”

More information and how to get involved can be found here - [Festival of Volunteering 2026 | Get InVOLved Norfolk](#).

The flagship event will be the Volunteer Extravaganza taking place at the Forum on 4th June 2026, 10 – 4.

How are we supporting you?

To support the work of volunteers throughout South Norfolk and Broadland, we’re offering 75% off our Carrowbreck House training courses! Below are a list of courses eligible for the discount:

- **Customer Service workshop**
- **How to set up and send regular newsletters to your customers**
- **LinkedIn for your business**
- **Emergency First Aid at Work**
- **Introduction to Canva**
- **Facebook for your business**
- **Navigating Neurodiversity**
- **Project management**
- **Level 2 Food Hygiene**

All training courses can be found [here](#) with further descriptions and prices. This is a great offer and also a great way show you value your volunteers, by equipping them with new knowledge and in some cases, a qualification!

Each group may **book a maximum of two spaces per course**. Spaces are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so don’t hesitate to secure your spot!

If you're interested in booking, please email communitycapacity@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk to receive your 75% off discount code! We'll be sharing more information on this on our Facebook and website soon.

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 voluntary, community and social enterprise (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 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



If you want to vote in the Norfolk County Council elections on 7 May, you must be registered.

You normally only need to register once - not for every election - so you'll need to register again if you've changed your name, address or nationality.

A reminder that you need to have an accepted photo ID to vote in person on 7 May. If you don't have one, apply for a free [Voter Authority Certificate](#) by 5pm on Tuesday 28 April.

If you're not sure if you need this, please check this [List of accepted forms of photo ID](#)

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding was discussed in the session, and so I have found some training that is available to volunteers and organisations in Norfolk;

[Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

[St Thomas Training](#)

[Community Action Norfolk](#)

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 July 2026
16:30-18:30pm
**The Walled Garden, Old Hall Road, Little
Plumstead NR13 5FA**