

# West Norfolk

Working together for impactful, place-based funding to improve local lives


# West Norfolk in 2023...

“Norfolk Community Foundation’s work is inspirational. The impact that their funding has had in West Norfolk has been game-changing, empowering local people to tackle challenges head-on and benefitting those who need it most. They work from the ground up to support communities and make sure that every contribution made makes a real difference. I am proud to be a part of this incredible journey as both High Sheriff of Norfolk and as a fundholder, knowing that we are building a better future for Norfolk, together.

**David Flux**  
High Sheriff

**1** award-winning  
neighbourhood

 Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Defibrillator Scheme

 Nourishing Norfolk Food Hub

 West Norfolk Rural Community Capital Grants

 Wind Farm Fund

 Community Hot-Spot

An estimated  
**2 in 5**  
people benefitted  
by our funding

**37%**

of all beneficiaries of  
our work countywide  
were from West Norfolk

**£785,838**  
awarded in grants to West  
Norfolk organisations

## Our West Norfolk Funds:

- Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Small Grants Scheme (Coronation)
- Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Small Grants Scheme (Defib)
- Chiplow Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund
- Developing Communities (Skills Focus Groups)
- Jack's Lane Wind Farm Community Fund
- Flux Family Fund
- Norfolk Household Support Fund
- Nourishing Norfolk Fund
- Surviving Winter Fund
- West Norfolk Employment Fund
- West Norfolk Lives Fund
- West Norfolk Rural Community Capital Grants





At Norfolk Community Foundation, we know the value of place-based funding.

We all want to live in communities that are caring, inclusive, and supportive, where we can connect with others, feel a sense of belonging, and access the things that make life worth living. Communities in West Norfolk are no exception to this.

This report highlights the profound impact that giving can have when directed thoughtfully and locally. We work to channel the energy of local funders, businesses, the District Council and passionate individuals into

creating vibrant communities in West Norfolk.

By directing resources to charitable groups integral to local communities, we can help West Norfolk communities build strong foundations to grow and support one another. Guided by their knowledge and experience, we empower communities to ensure everyone can flourish.

Please join us as we journey through this report, celebrating the resourcefulness, resilience and innovation of West Norfolk communities born from the transformative power of local investment.

## 5 ways we're making a difference

### 1. Community Buildings

Creating spaces and places beyond bricks and mortar that help communities tick.

### 2. Activities

Bringing local communities together to celebrate the good times.

### 3. Skills

Breaking down barriers and building skills that bring the workplace within reach.

### 4. Rural Development

Creating equitable opportunities in rural West Norfolk.

### 5. Cost of Living Support

Empowering local, grassroots efforts to combat hardship.



## Community buildings building community

Community buildings are so much more than bricks and mortar. They are places where communities can come together, share ideas, and make things happen. In West Norfolk, whether in market towns or isolated villages, community venues both large and small continue to play a part in everyone's life. These spaces offer something for everyone, from classes and meetings to simply spending time with friends.

### A focus on just one village...

The small village of Syderstone has benefitted from numerous Norfolk Community Foundation grants, notably from both Jack's Lane and Chiplow wind farms' community funds. Continued investment in their community spaces provides a lifeline for rural communities, now and for the future.

Amy Robsart Village Hall has used our funding to invest in green energy solutions, helping reduce running costs and making the hall an economical and affordable space for their community.

The hall hosts coffee mornings, the Village Screen Cinema, the Local History Group, the Book Club and a satellite Post Office for 430 residents. All these groups provide social integration and interaction, as well as reducing social isolation in the rural village.

Additionally, outside spaces where young people can play and be active together have also been maintained and improved thanks to the wind farm funds.

### Community Insight

- 1 in 3 people in Syderstone are aged over 65, compared to less than 1 in 5 nationally

## Celebrating good times

A lot of our work is about solving big problems, but it's just as important that we create opportunities for people to connect and have fun together, too.

Covid-19 profoundly affected communities, leaving many struggling to get back on their feet after lockdown. By supporting a broad variety of positive community activities, we have helped make neighbourhoods better and brought people closer together.

Together, we can give people a chance to meet, learn from each other, and feel that they belong.

### Feeling a part of something...

We provided grants to 60 groups across West Norfolk to celebrate King's Coronation thanks to the Borough Council. These events provide invaluable moments for connection and joy, especially for this lady in [Watlington](#):

*"A lady in the village, who has dementia, was brought to the event by her daughter. She met up with many old friends and could watch the old videos being played, in which she actually featured. Her daughter said she had a lovely time, thoroughly enjoyed the live band and watching the children play games. She said her mother was the most engaged and animated that she had been in a long time."*



### Funding Insight

- £11,000 was made available to groups to celebrate the King's Coronation

Clenchworth Coronation Party

## Investing in skills that work

West Norfolk's strong and vibrant business community relies on local talent, but when it comes to employment, West Norfolk faces unique challenges that push the workplace out of reach for many.

Working with local communities, we gained greater insight into local employment challenges through focus groups. Some findings, such as poor transport, were unsurprising but we also found low confidence to be a big barrier.

Through targeted initiatives addressing skills and employment, charitable organisations can empower local people to bring the workplace within their reach in innovative ways.

*I opened a fund with the Foundation ten years ago... there is transparency in its dealings with recipients and those it seeks to help, and it provides valuable feedback to me too. They always seek to meet my aspirations.*

**Fundholder**

West Norfolk Employment Fund

### Boosting confidence to bring the workplace within reach...

We funded *The Mason Trust* to extend their Digital Youth Hub project, helping young people in more isolated areas receive job coaching and mentorship. 'Molly' attended a 7-week programme:

"Molly was struggling with anxiety, she was uncomfortable applying for jobs or talking to other people. We built a rapport, had some good conversations, and worked on her CV and a template cover letter. She gradually grew in confidence and started applying for various jobs. She was offered a job in a shop which she happily accepted. She has been in touch since to say how much she is enjoying the role and how much more confident she feels."



## Rural development to decrease disparities

Norfolk is a county defined by its town-countryside division, and nowhere is this clearer than in West Norfolk. The disparity between busy towns and beautiful but sparsely populated countryside can put people at a disadvantage. Rural areas can have gaps in services, but the strength of rural communities lies in their tight-knit bonds. Rural communities rally together, caring for one another and bridging gaps through collective action. This solidarity creates strong, united communities while helping narrow the gap, ensuring everyone is supported and valued.

### Offering a lifeline...

Rural communities can leave people isolated, especially those with poor mental health.

#### *Harpley Community Events*

received West Norfolk Lives funding to start a craft club, encouraging people to join in with the community, learn new skills and build friendships. One member suffers from extreme anxiety. She suffers panic attacks and has struggled to socialise, often being too afraid to leave the house. Her community have been able to support her to join in with the craft club, and she now attends regularly.



### Closing the gaps...

In rural areas, every second counts during an emergency. The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Defibrillator Scheme has provided 18 devices in 2023 - some of which have already been activated 5+ times.



# Countering the Cost of Living Crisis

*"This fund will help us in a big way. I am disabled myself, living with two autistic children and two pensioners. This will help keep us warm."* - A carer in West Norfolk

Community groups are best placed to deliver support to those struggling with the rising cost of living. They know their communities well and understand the challenges people are facing that others don't see. We delivered the Household Support Fund to groups across West Norfolk on behalf of Norfolk County Council. Partnering with 31 organisations since 2021 to deliver over £350k in support to over 6,900 households. Groups found creative ways to help households stay afloat, like providing store credit at Nourishing Norfolk food hubs to make food more affordable, reducing strain on other bills.

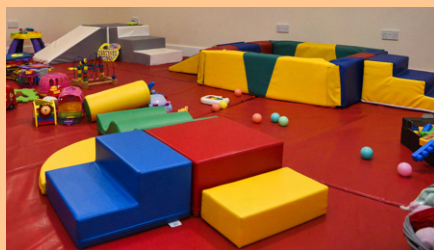
## Support in Numbers:

- 5 Nourishing Norfolk food hubs in West Norfolk
- 34 Community Hot-Spots were funded in 2022, with 15 returning in 2023 after seeing the difference it made.
- Almost **£350,000** delivered since 2021 directly to West Norfolk households through the Household Support Fund.

## Community Hot-Spots

Funded through a mix of public donations, businesses and local authority funding, Community Hot-Spots have helped to alleviate hardship during the winter months. Stoke Ferry Playing Field Association created a warm space for families with young children:

"One of the families was put in touch with the warm homes scheme which Kings Lynn Borough Council was promoting and as we are fully aware of their circumstances we can keep a subtle eye out for the family if their hardships continue."



We funded more Hot-Spots in West Norfolk than anywhere else thanks to additional funding from the Borough Council, with almost 20,000 individuals benefitting from 2022 to 2024.

## Nourishing Norfolk

There are 5 food hubs operating in West Norfolk, providing people with the food they need right now, and offering pathways out of food insecurity for good.







Together, Norfolk shines brighter

#ShineBrighter

[norfolkfoundation.com](http://norfolkfoundation.com)

Registered charity No. 1110817