

# Community Involvement Team Annual Report 2022/23



## A BIG YEAR FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

At Rykneld Homes, we care as much about the wider community as we do about the homes we manage and the people who live in them. Our Community Involvement Team work across North East Derbyshire delivering projects and initiatives that aim to improve wellbeing and enhance the look and feel of towns, villages and estates.

## IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

A number of our projects this year focussed on enhancing the local environment and habitats, whilst educating and enthusing children and young people in the process.

You'll find information about these projects and their impact on the community within this report.



This report details just some of the projects the team embarked on between April 2022 and March 2023.

If you have any questions about the work of the team, would like to volunteer, or want to get them involved in a project near you, please get in touch using the contact details on the back page.





## COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

2022 was a big year for community celebrations. As well as our usual programme of summer fairs, festive events and Halloween parties, there were the Jubilee celebrations as well.

We were contacted by a community group in Clay Cross, who wanted to put on a large street party that was open to all and had something for everyone. We arranged for a road closure on Broadleys and helped the group gain funding for a children's entertainer and a local singer to provide music and dancing. The group put on various stalls, including crafts and a tombola. Local sellers were invited to sell their produce and the Fire Service brought a fire engine for children to climb aboard.

To cater for those in search of a more relaxed atmosphere, an area was created on the other side of the street away from the games and music with relaxation therapies. There was also a cake and refreshments sale for MacMillan Nurses within the community room.

On the day hundreds of people of all ages came along and enjoyed the festivities. When added to the various other events delivered and attended by the team, we engaged with over 600 people this year, just through community events.





# ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Protecting and enhancing the environment is one of our key aims as an organisation. Our Community Involvement Team are continuously delivering projects that aim to enhance the environment, tackle climate change and educate young people in the process.

## Community Allotments

The first key project for this year involved working closely with the North Wingfield Community Community Garden, a social group who recruit volunteers to attend various sessions and events on a community allotment in the village. The Community Involvement Team linked up with this group to plan a series of Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) sessions on the allotment during the school summer holidays.

We delivered six sessions which enabled children aged 11 to 16 to learn about growing, and participate in games and sports. The sessions were a great success, and all participants left wanting to continue to come to future sessions at the allotment.



Planting up a newly created bed

## Wildflower Planting

We teamed up with the Killamarsh Conservation Group to create a wildflower patch on an underused green space surrounded by housing. We consulted locally and discovered that there was overwhelming support for the creation of a wildflower patch.

Wildflowers are fantastic for biodiversity, in particular pollinators, who are under threat of habitat loss. We helped the group gain permissions and match funded the cost of pre-seeded turf. We then contacted a local primary school, who brought their year 3 and 4 classes to plant spring bulbs around the edge of the patch.



Wildflowers on South Crescent in Killamarsh





Community litter pick with the 'Killamarsh Wombles'

## ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

Once again this year, we've been out and about focussing on bringing active volunteers together to improve their communities. We have arranged community clean ups across the district. As well as being about tackling issues around litter and fly-tipping, these events are an opportunity to bring local people together to help improve the area they live in.

We work closely with our Housing and Support and Estate Caretaker teams to identify the areas that need addressing. Once an area has been chosen, we promote the activities, through our social media and website, and through local community groups.

In the 2022/23 financial year, we did community clean ups in the following areas:

- Killamarsh
- Holmgate
- North Wingfield
- Unstone
- Morton
- Tupton

This year we've also focussed on improving life for residents at Hallowes Court in Dronfield. It became apparent through consultation that there was inadequate space for drying clothes outdoors. We therefore worked with the residents to enhance the current areas and create new ones. This in turn will help reduce the chances of damp and condensatoin within homes.



Volunteers came out in force in North Wingfield





## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TEAM KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

Delivered 125 community projects throughout North East Derbyshire



Provided 14 community projects with £6140 of direct funding

Gained £40,000 of external funding for school holiday activities and free meal provision



Engaged with over 2500 members of the community



## A fantastic turnout for the Clay Cross new aged kurling tournament



## TACKLING SOCIAL ISOLATION

Social isolation is something Rykneld Homes takes seriously and is making big efforts to address. By supporting groups, events and activities that enable older people to regularly participate in, we are helping to reduce loneliness and keep the population of North East Derbyshire active, both physically and socially, for longer.

We continually run projects, such as our Marx Court social activities and support for community groups that benefit older people. On top of this, this year we organised and delivered a 'new aged kurling' tournament at Sharley Park in Clay Cross.

The event brought together kurling groups from across the district, many of which the Community Involvement Team established in the past few years. It was incredibly well attended, with over 50 people coming together to enjoy a bit of competitive fun.

We invited a number of agencies, such as Rykneld Homes' Community Alarm Service and Live Life Better Derbyshire to come along and promote their services during the lunch break.

Trophies and prizes were given out to the winners and runners up and the feedback was incredibly positive.



There are prizes for second place!



Renishaw History Project

## History in the Making

This year we also worked with a local historian in Renishaw to establish a local history project. We put on a variety of sessions, from looking at and learning about local memorabilia, to heritage crafts such as macramé, weaving and clay work, led by professional artists and local enthusiasts.

We also enjoyed a lovely day out at Renishaw Hall Gardens, where we learned more about the history of the local area.



## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Wand making at Kenning Park, Holmgate



Pizza making in Eckington

This year we've had a big focus on activities and projects for children and young people. These have ranged from school holiday activities to delivering tailored sessions at youth clubs. The projects we deliver for children all aim to help children and families to access activities that enhance health and wellbeing, through sports, healthy eating, crafts and much more.

One of our big projects this year has been the delivery of the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) programme across the district. This funding enables families in receipt of free school meals to access free meals and snacks during the school holidays. The food is provided alongside healthy, fun and educational activities, including multi-sports (cricket, football, rounders, athletics), circus skills, crafts, inflatables, cooking, making fruit kebabs and more.

This year we delivered HAF funded activities in North Wingfield, Stonebroom, Mickley, Grassmoor, Eckington, Holmgate and Renishaw. These sessions combined enabled us to engage with and provide free food to over 500 children and were delivered throughout the school holidays.

We delivered all of these in partnership with community groups and local Councils and helped recruit and train volunteers. We secured over £40K of external funding for all the sessions. We plan to build on these in 2023/24.



Grassmoor summer HAF activities



# SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

One of the main goals of the Community Involvement Team is to support communities to become active and thriving places, where individuals feel like they are part of something positive. This year we have continued to support many existing community groups, whilst being instrumental in establishing some exciting new organisations.

## Hurray for Moray

The team were approached this year by a resident of Moray Place in Dronfield Woodhouse, who was very keen to make use of an under used community building to establish a new community support group.

The individual was very keen to provide a support hub, both for those suffering loneliness and mental health issues, and for members of the wider community who were keen to meet new people and engage in new

activities. The group has been a fantastic success, with weekly arts sessions, delivered by a local art teacher, games, crafts and general wellness.

The Community Involvement Team worked hard to help them get set up, including support to gain external funding for their activities.

## Yum Yum

This year we brushed up on our cooking skills and got back out there delivering healthy eating on a budget cooking sessions. These are all about bringing people together to enjoy a tasty new recipe, whilst learning new skills and meeting people.

**THESE ARE JUST TWO EXAMPLES OF MULTIPLE PROJECTS AND GROUPS WE HAVE SUPPORTED THROUGH THE YEAR, INCLUDING TENANTS AND RESIDENTS GROUPS, GROUPS FOR OLDER PEOPLE, YOUTH GROUPS AND MUCH MORE. TO FIND OUT HOW THE TEAM CAN HELP YOU, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO GET IN TOUCH.**

Art lessons at Moray Place



Cooking on a budget session in Eckington



We helped Eckington Focus TARA gain funding towards their community garden

