



COMMUNITY GRANTS

Annual report 2021-2022



Cambridge City Council's Community Grant fund is available to fund voluntary, community and not-for-profit organisations to run projects that will help to **reduce social or economic inequality for Cambridge residents** with the most need.

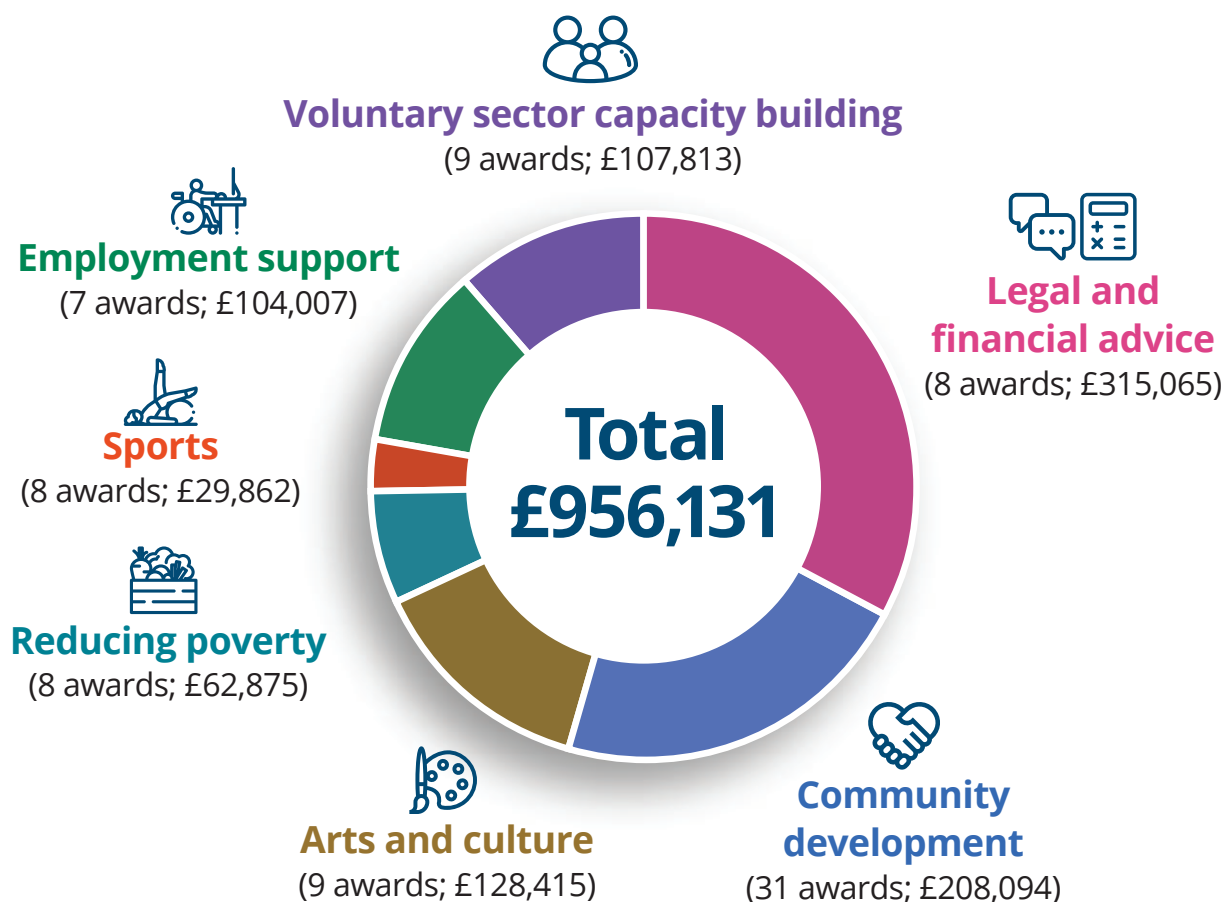
Activities need to:

- Reduce poverty
- Improve skills and confidence to help people gain employment
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Encourage communities to come together and bring about change
- Strengthen and grow the city's voluntary sector.

In 2021-2022, a total of **£1,013,126** was awarded:

- **£956,131** of this was through Community Grants to benefit all parts of Cambridge
- **£56,995** of this was through Area Committee Grants, to run specific neighbourhood activities
- **89** groups were funded
- **108** activities were delivered.

Community Grants activities fall under seven categories



With thanks to **398 trustees** and **2,167 volunteers**, who support the work of the organisations receiving funding



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Impact of the pandemic during 2021-2022

April 2021 to March 2022 was a challenging year, with continuing uncertainty around possible lockdowns and changing restrictions. Restrictions on room capacity and the need to move away from in-person activities to online and over the phone made it more difficult for groups to engage and reach beneficiaries. This at a time when those services and activities were needed more than ever.

Despite the challenges, the voluntary sector demonstrated its ability to adapt to delivering in an ever changing landscape, with some incredible activities funded during the year.

Groups also found some advantages, such as removing the need to travel or to manage childcare to attend appointments or sessions. Recognising these benefits, many groups are now

providing a blended approach of in-person and online/telephone support.

Despite the challenges during the pandemic, 89 groups were funded and 108 activities delivered during 2021-2022.



**Rowan
Humberstone
Ltd**



Funded organisations

- > Cambridge & District Citizens Advice Bureau
- > Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum's Cambridgeshire Human Rights and Equality Support Service (CHESS)
- > Cambridge Money Advice Centre
- > Disability Cambridgeshire

Funded activities

- > Free legal and specialist debt and money advice, partnership work, training, campaigns and initiatives, and debt and income maximisation service

- > Specialist welfare rights casework service
- > Financial capability information and support for people facing financial hardship and associated social issues
- > Free specialist information, advice and advocacy for people from ethnic minority backgrounds including refugees
- > Confidential debt advice service plus training and accrediting of volunteers
- > Information helpline and caseworker support for disabled people
- > Discretionary Rate Relief support



 **SPOTLIGHT ON**

Cambridge & District Citizens Advice Bureau

- Free legal and specialist debt and money advice provided to **20,954** clients, supported with 48,444 issues. £11,174,342 income was gained, and £1,313,062 worth of debt was written off
- Specialist welfare rights casework service supported **371** clients and addressed 1,941 issues – helping people to gain £995,632 income

 **SPOTLIGHT ON**

Cambridge Money Advice Centre

- **95%** of clients felt better about themselves and more confident for the future
- **90%** felt better about their financial situation
- **85%** felt more in control of their own finances

Cambridge Money Advice Centre client said:

“ You guys are wonderful, and undoubtedly ... literally ... save lives.

The big companies really know how to impose so much stress you can't think straight and just go under.

You guys just hold people up enough that they can at least see the shore; thank you. ”



 **SPOTLIGHT ON**

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum's Cambridgeshire Human Rights and Equality Support Service (CHESS)

- **40** people (plus an additional 17 family members) were given advice, representation and advocacy on education, employment, housing, welfare benefits, health and social care, policing, discrimination and more
- Employers and service providers were given advice and feedback on policy and strategies relating to human rights, equality, diversity and inclusion issues

 **SPOTLIGHT ON**

Disability Cambridgeshire

- **66** disabled city residents, their families and carers received telephone information and benefit casework
- **£100,000** increase in annualised benefit awards for clients

Disability Cambridgeshire client said:

“ I do have to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without you I doubt that I would have achieved this result.

So, I am eternally grateful. ”



Funded organisations

- > Abbey People CIO
- > Age UK
- > Boishakhi Cultural Association
- > Cambridge African Network
- > Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum's Race Equality Service
- > Cambridge Women's Aid
- > Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise
- > Cambridgeshire Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted (Camsight)
- > Centre 33
- > Changing Directions
- > Encompass Network
- > Home-Start Cambridgeshire
- > Indian Cultural Society
- > King's Hedges Family Support Project
- > The Kite Trust
- > Meadows Children and Family Wing
- > North Cambridge Community Partnership
- > Romsey Mill Trust
- > Rowan Humberstone Ltd
- > Student Community Action
- > Trumpington Residents' Association

Student community action volunteers



Funded activities

- > Community events bringing people together, reducing isolation and creating a sense of belonging
- > Dance and fitness activities to improve health and wellbeing
- > Cultural events to recognise and celebrate diversity and increase community cohesion
- > Training and networking events to create a stronger voluntary and community sector
- > Information, advice and representation for people from minority groups
- > School holiday and play schemes targeted at families experiencing economic difficulties
- > Telephone discussion groups to support older people feeling isolated
- > Information, support and advice services for young people with emotional and practical needs
- > Peer support for isolated mums with mental health issues
- > Family support and facilitated play for children and families through drop-ins and signposting to support services
- > Specialist support programme for women
- > Targeted detached youth work engaging the most disadvantaged in the most deprived areas
- > A life and social skills programme for young people with autism
- > A forest school for adults with learning disabilities
- > Student led volunteering programmes for vulnerable, disadvantaged and disabled young people
- > Discretionary Rate Relief support

SPOTLIGHT ON

Centre 33

- **1,988** 13-25 year olds were supported with housing, homelessness, sexual health, employment and education, finances, and emotional wellbeing
- **177** were supported with their mental health
- **50%** of those accessing support in the first half of the year received one-to-one support around suicidal ideation

Centre 33 client said:

“ I always felt calmer whenever I entered the waiting area. People there always offered me tea or coffee, everyone was extremely kind and supportive. When I had a major anxiety attack and felt lonely, I knew I can go to the Centre 33 and just stay there and be safe. It also helped me with not harming myself, because instead of being alone with my own thoughts, I could go there and I knew people will keep me safe and care for me. I definitely had an amazing experience with Centre 33. ”

SPOTLIGHT ON

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum's Race Equality Service

- **250+** people supported through 500 phone calls, texts and WhatsApp messages and 300 emails
- **119** supermarket vouchers issued
- **43** small fuel grants provided
- **30** Foodbank food and fuel vouchers issued
- **Three** volunteer placements provided at Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum for unemployed people, helping them to improve language skills, learn new skills and build confidence

Race Equality Service client said:

“ When I have a problem, I know that I can ask for help at Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum. They always listen to me and try to help because our English is not very good, and we don't understand the system in the UK. ”



SPOTLIGHT ON

Rowan Humberstone

- Provides a wide range of social and arts activities for adults with learning difficulties
- **97.5%** of parents/carers agree students enjoyed coming to Rowan, learnt new skills and developed their potential

**Rowan Rangers
Forest School**



Home-Start
‘make a smile’ visit

 **SPOTLIGHT ON**

Home-Start Cambridgeshire

- **138** family support sessions delivered to 35 families
- **Nine** children supported to attend nursery
- **Seven** families accessed community resources
- **Nine** parents re-started paid employment

Home-Start Cambridgeshire parent said:

“ One thing I can be sure of is that I wouldn’t be here now without the help and support of Home-Start. I have so much to thank them for. They have given me and my children a new lease of life and for that I will be eternally grateful. ”

**Romsey Mill
Blue Bag project**

 **SPOTLIGHT ON**

Romsey Mill Trust and Aspire Youth Group

- **40** weekly youth club sessions were delivered targeting very disadvantaged and at risk hard to reach young people aged 12-19
- **220** one-to-one sessions were attended by 45 autistic 17-19 year olds
- **493** young people were supported and 38 received support during a time of crisis (e.g. at risk of exclusion, involvement in criminal justice system)
- **10** young people got new jobs after returning to sixth form or secured apprenticeships
- **17** young people were supported into work or continuing education
- **98%** of young people agreed “youth workers help develop me as a person”, **92%** expressed an improvement in their ability to overcome challenges, and **94%** expressed an improvement in hope for the future

Romsey Mill Trust young person said:

“ Romsey Mill is the main reason I made it through school and managed to create a life after school. They also allowed me to grow in confidence and recognise the skills and talents I possess. ”



SPOTLIGHT ON

The Kite Trust

- **112** LGBTQ+ young people supported
- **82** one-to-one sessions delivered
- **83%** felt confidence levels were higher or much higher since accessing The Kite Trust services
- **69%** rated their self-esteem levels as higher or much higher since accessing The Kite Trust services

Kite Trust young person said:

“The social groups provide a safe space for young people to be themselves without fear of judgement or discrimination and provide an opportunity to meet other young people in similar positions.”

Kite Trust youth work training day



SPOTLIGHT ON

The Meadows Children and Family Wing

- Provided assistance to disadvantaged families and specialist peer support groups for women
- **437** adults, **364** pre-school children, and **132** school aged children were supported
- **42** peer-to-peer support sessions were held
- **122** Christmas hampers and fresh fruit and vegetables were delivered
- **55** applications made for £7,414 worth of essential food, fuel and white goods for families
- **16** families helped to apply to the Household Emergency Fund
- **29** successful applications made to Cambridge Central Aid for Christmas vouchers for low-income families

A Meadows Children and Family Wing service user said:

“My children love the staff and really enjoy coming.”

SPOTLIGHT ON

Student Community Action

- **34** vulnerable adults and children were supported with food parcels, phone calls and practical and social support to enable them to participate more fully in community life
- **37** disadvantaged children received face-to-face befriending support
- **42** vulnerable children and adults received virtual befriending support
- **32** children with disabilities attended a weekly social or sports activity



Funded organisations

- > Cambridge 105 FM Radio
- > Cambridge Community Arts
- > Junction CDC Ltd
- > Kettle's Yard
- > Museum of Cambridge
- > Rowan Humberstone Ltd
- > University of Cambridge Museums

Cambridge Community Arts



Funded activities

- > Creative groups for unemployed adults with mental health challenges
- > Arts apprenticeship programme for disadvantaged young people
- > Four creative outreach projects with local communities
- > Activities engaging at risk children, young people and their families, who face barriers to arts engagement
- > The Here/Now arts engagement project with unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people
- > A creative programme of activities to enable vulnerable and disenfranchised residents to build cultural capital
- > Discretionary Rate Relief support



SPOTLIGHT ON

The Junction

- **Three** apprenticeships created for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds
- **Five** Customer Service Steward roles created for young people with profound and multiple learning difficulties
- Free tickets for a Christmas show provided to disadvantaged young people and families
- Fortnightly creative sessions provided to disabled young people aged 9-13 and 13-25
- Film-making project run with young people in Trumpington with Romsey Mill and HighRise Theatre



SPOTLIGHT ON

Kettle's Yard

- **840** residents participated in a range of community engagement projects with Kettle's Yard
- **10** Arts Award qualifications were gained by at-risk young people as part of the Live Wire engagement project



Kettle's Yard Live Wire project participants

- **Four** videos with instructions were created for local school pupils making carnival costumes for the Carnival Parade

Reducing poverty activities

8 awards
£62,875



Funded organisations

- > Cambridge Housing Society (CHS)
- > Cambridge Online
- > Cambridge Re-use
- > Cambridge Sustainable Food
- > Tempo Time Credits Ltd
- > The Red Hen Project



SPOTLIGHT ON

Cambridge Housing Society

- Corona Community peer support project based in Corona House provided supported living accommodation to vulnerable women
- **38** women received support to improve their health and mental wellbeing and learn new skills
- **78** health related activities were provided during the year
- **Five** women were supported to maintain or start paid employment
- **Two** women began volunteering
- **Two** women were supported to move into their own tenancies



SPOTLIGHT ON

The Red Hen Project

- **269** families received ingredients to make Christmas dinner
- **123** families were provided with Christmas gifts for their children
- **110** families received a Christmas hamper
- **400+** boxes of fresh produce were provided
- **68+** interventions were made through an outreach project, and 90 hours of drop-in sessions were run

Funded activities

- > Peer support project for vulnerable women
- > Digital inclusion liaison and networking
- > Supporting those on low incomes to purchase donated household goods and furniture
- > Holiday lunch programmes for low-income families
- > Cookery workshops for low-income families
- > Support of food hubs and Cambridge Food Poverty Alliance to run the food distribution centre
- > Capacity building and volunteer engagement with Time Credits scheme
- > Poverty relief for North Cambridge families (emergency care packs, FareShare food redistribution, debt and financial advice and support)
- > Discretionary Rate Relief support



Sporting activities

8 awards
£29,862



Funded organisations

- > Cambridge Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club Limited
- > Cambridge Disabled Kids Swimming Club
- > Cambridge United Community Trust
- > Chinese Families Together
- > Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre
- > The Kite Trust
- > Level Water



Funded activities

- > Hydrotherapy pool sessions for children with disabilities
- > 'Fit and Fed' holiday sport and lunch provision for children
- > Badminton sessions to promote wellbeing
- > Weekly fitness classes and football sessions for disadvantaged groups
- > Swimming sessions for trans and non-binary people
- > Swimming lessons for disabled children
- > Discretionary Rate Relief support

SPOTLIGHT ON

Cambridge United Community Trust

- 14 free sports sessions delivered to 230 children in disadvantaged areas

Parent of a Cambridge United Community Trust Fit and Fed attendee said:

“ We as a family really enjoy and appreciate everything you do – football session, free meal and the free football kit. ”

SPOTLIGHT ON

Cambridge Disabled Kids Swimming Club

- 42 swimming sessions provided to 18 disabled children

Parent of a Cambridge Disabled Kids Swimming Club attendee said:

“ It's so important for my daughter to keep getting this exercise to not only maintain her physical fitness and strength but her self-esteem and confidence. Her newfound ability to get around the pool on her own will also increase her spatial awareness which will help with her learning to control her powered wheelchair. ”

Employment support

7 awards
£104,007



Funded organisations

- > Cambridge Online
- > Cambridge Women's Resources Centre
- > Guidance, Employment and Training Ltd
- > Richmond Fellowship
- > Romsey Mill Trust

Funded activities

- > Training and help to use computers and mobile technology
- > Sourcing and distributing devices to those in need
- > Infrastructure support for groups providing guidance, employment and training support to disadvantaged people
- > Employability and wellbeing programmes to enable women to build skills and confidence and re-engage in the community
- > Employment support for adults with mental health issues
- > Provision of courses for young parents (up to age 21)
- > Discretionary Rate Relief support

SPOTLIGHT ON Cambridge Online

- **900** hours of learning delivered
- **231** individuals received devices and internet connections
- **111** beneficiaries were supported and encouraged to develop digital skills, prepare a CV and apply for a job



Cambridge
Online Digital
Inclusion

SPOTLIGHT ON Cambridge Women's Resources Centre

- **28** women accessed support to improve their financial, employment and educational prospects with one-to-one support
- **Four** women accessed 'read easy' literacy sessions
- **Three** women returned to education
- **Two** women started volunteering

SPOTLIGHT ON Richmond Fellowship

- **53** unwaged city residents experiencing mental ill health received dedicated employment intervention, information, advice, and guidance
- **19%** started and sustained paid employment; **15%** started voluntary work; and **4%** completed an accredited education course

Voluntary sector capacity building

9 awards
£107,813



Funded organisations

- > Allia Ltd
- > Arbury Community Association
- > Bath House Association
- > Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service
- > Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum

Funded activities

- > Social enterprise support and development
- > Support for groups to set up, run and sustain services
- > Volunteering: increasing opportunities, promoting good practice and improving volunteer experience
- > Capacity building in the voluntary sector to meet the needs of members
- > Discretionary Rate Relief support



SPOTLIGHT ON

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum

- Capacity building service open three days a week, responding to phone calls, text messages and emails
- Provision of fortnightly surgeries, one-to-ones, group development support and training
- **1,800** individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds and 11 groups supported

SPOTLIGHT ON

Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service

Provided services to ensure individuals and groups are better able to set up, run and sustain services.

- **647** enquiries answered, representing 206 hours of support
- **64** training and support events were run, with 1,139 bookings
- **Six** volunteering courses and **six** volunteer networking events were run
- **95** individuals attended a lunchtime volunteering fair
- **22** organisations received one-to-one support with recruiting volunteers and becoming more inclusive
- Six training sessions were held for **70** attendees to improve the digital skills of smaller organisations
- An annual survey was undertaken of the sector to help identify organisational support needs, with **191** people responding

A volunteer supported by Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service said:

“ Thank you for not giving up on me. I now feel that I can start volunteering again. ”

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum beneficiary said:

“ The session covered common management and leadership problems and breaking them down. I resonated with many of the problems and felt not alone, and I was happy to learn how I could do better in a team. ”

Discretionary Rate Relief

23 awards
£32,431



In addition to funding activities, the Community Grants fund considers applications for Discretionary Rate Relief from qualifying voluntary and community groups.

Discretionary Rate Relief is relief that councils can award to organisations to reduce their business rates bills, in addition to the mandatory reliefs that are awarded by government.

To be considered for Discretionary Rate Relief, groups were required to demonstrate that the activities taking place at their premises met our funding priorities and outcomes.

The level of relief awarded is proportionate to the number of beneficiaries that are Cambridge residents.

The Hub, 15 Barnwell Road





Funded organisations

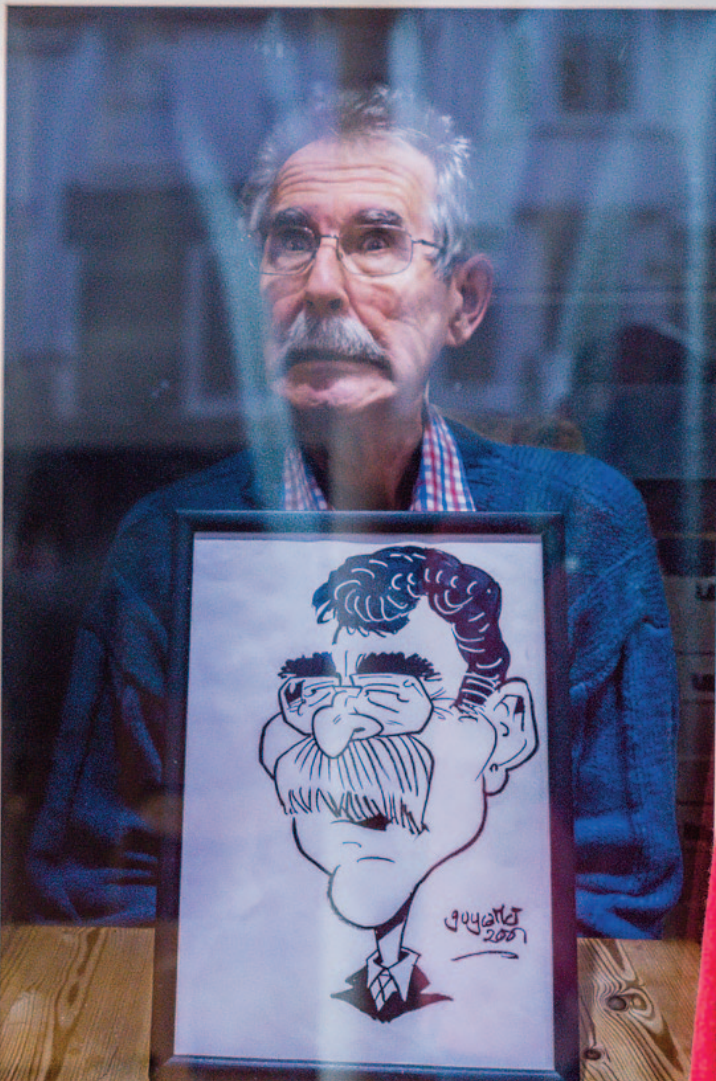
- > Friends of Histon Road Cemetery
- > Headway Cambridgeshire
- > Histon Road Area Residents' Association
- > King's Hedges Family Support Project
- > Meadows Children and Family Wing
- > Oblique Arts
- > The Red Hen Project

King's Hedges Family Support Project attendee said:

“ They made me feel I wasn't alone and could call on them for support. Plus, the crafts have really helped keep my little one and I engaged since lockdown. Really grateful for their support. ”

Funded activities

- > Community activities, volunteer support and running of the Friends of Histon Road Cemetery
- > Inclusive sports for disabled residents
- > Community activity to reduce social isolation
- > Drop-in, online and outdoor sessions and sessions for disadvantaged families
- > Art workshops and exhibition for neurodiverse young people
- > Day trips for disadvantaged families



Histon Road Big Reunion exhibition



Funded organisations

- > Bird Box Gallery
- > Birdwood Area Residents' Association
- > Cambridge Community Arts
- > Friends of Mill Road Cemetery
- > King's Hedges Family Support Project
- > Mill Road Winter Fair Association
- > Oblique Arts
- > Romsey Music Project
- > St Martin's Church

Funded activities

- > Day trip for low income and older residents
- > Arts courses for unemployed residents or economically inactive residents, and workshops for disadvantaged young people
- > Maintaining green spaces to improve health and wellbeing
- > Drop-in sessions for parents with young children
- > Community events such as the visual arts festival, Mill Road Winter Fair and community music programme

Bird Box Gallery attendee said:

“It's been lovely to do something as part of the community. Lots of people have stopped and looked at the Box. It's a great collaboration and brings local people together.”



Oblique Arts

Friends of Mill Road Cemetery





Funded organisations

- > Cambridge Royal Albert Homes
- > Cambridge Older People's Enterprise (COPE)
- > Cherry Hinton Residents' Association
- > Denis Wilson Court Social Club
- > Hanover and Princess Court Residents' Association
- > NIE Theatre company
- > Nightingale Gardeners
- > Red Cross Areas Residents' Association
- > St Andrew's Church
- > Trumpington Community Drama Group
- > Trumpington Meadows Delivery & Action Group Ltd
- > Trumpington Residents' Association

Nightingale Gardeners' Kindness Garden



Funded activities

- > Community events and activities such as Christmas lights switch on, kindness project to reduce isolation, and picnics
- > Activities for older people, including social get togethers, day trips, cooking, crafts and tea dances
- > Day trips
- > Arts and theatre activities for young people with limited opportunities

Hanover and Princess Court Residents' Association spokesperson said:

“ We provide accessible social activities on the doorstep of those who do not have the confidence or capacity to find such activities elsewhere. After significantly curtailed social interactions for many residents during lockdowns because of medical vulnerabilities, the restricted activities we were able to offer were very well received by local residents. ”

NIE Theatre Company beneficiary said:

“ Having the NIE group working with our children was wonderful. I don't think the children will forget working with the company and seeing their ideas being brought to life. It felt like it really celebrated our community, and I am so glad that we were able to provide this opportunity for our children. ”



Funded organisations

- > Castle Covid Support Association
- > Christ's Pieces Residents' Association
- > Eddington Residents' Association
- > Friends of Histon Road Cemetery
- > Friends of Midsummer Common
- > Histon Road Area Residents' Association
- > Mayfield Seniors' Group
- > Oblique Arts

Funded activities

- > Community events to address isolation and encourage social integration following pandemic restrictions
- > Days out and activities for older residents
- > Community volunteering and activities to improve health and wellbeing

Histon Road Cemetery visitor said:

“ Thank you for providing the best green spot for lockdown exercise! The cemetery is a wonderful asset to the area; an oasis within a very busy part of Cambridge. ”

Friends of Histon Road Cemetery



