

Community Development News

Where communities come together, to take collective action
and create solutions for common challenges



WELCOME TO OUR SECOND NEWSLETTER!

It doesn't feel like so long since we launched our newsletter just after Summer, but it definitely feels like the seasons have changed as we head into the depths of Winter. And with that some of our workstreams in the Community Development team have adapted as we continue to listen to what's happening for residents in the city, what people tell us is important to them and what we hear there's a need for. Keep reading to find out more!

As always, if you'd like to get in touch with us about anything in the newsletter, ideas you have for your communities or that you'd like to collaborate on you can email us at communitydevelopment@cambridge.gov.uk Alternatively you can follow us on Facebook by clicking [here](#) or searching Cambridge Community Development and message us there.

What's Been Happening?

VETERANS TRIP



Back in September Carl supported a trip with Armed Forces Veterans living in Cambridge to the National Memorial Arboretum. For all that attended it was a thought provoking, somber, yet enjoyable experience as they viewed the monuments together and shared thoughts and memories. In addition to being a war memorial there are also areas dedicated to the memories of police officers, firefighters and NHS staff, and everyone was able to explore and reflect throughout the day.

VOLUME 2

NOVEMBER 2023

Meet the Team!

Vicky Haywood- Community
Development Manager

Binnie Pickard- Tackling Poverty
Lead

Jo Hunt- New Communities
Lead

Caroline Gill- Children, Young
People and Families Lead

Ariadne Henry- Equalities Lead

Andrea Butler- Community
Development Officer North

Kelly Smith- Community
Development Officer South

Suzanne Jackson- Community
Development Officer West /
New Communities

Carl Higgs- Community
Development Officer East /
Armed Forces and Veterans Lead

Adie Hawkshaw- Children and
Young People Engagement Officer

Luthfa Khatun- Community
Cohesion Officer

Patrick Brown- Community
Development assistant

Jolene Chisholm- Gypsy, Roma,
Traveller Engagement Worker

Dora Suberlak- Project Support
Officer

What's Been Happening?

AKEMAN COMMUNITY CENTRE ART PROJECT



Over 6 weeks in September and October, Andrea worked alongside a group of children in Arbury, Kettles Yard and artist Anna Brownsted creating a 'drawing machine'. During the project the children designed and created different machines and their creativity and imagination has inspired Anna's work. This will feature in an exhibition - Making New Worlds: Li Yuan-Chia and friends - and she has arranged to take the children to the museum later in November to see the finished drawing machine and instructions they helped to create!

FOOD JUSTICE CONFERENCE

In early October community groups, voluntary sector organisations, City and County Council officers and partners from health and social enterprise sectors, came together at the Food Justice Conference at the Meadows Community Centre. Keynote speeches and presentations around food insecurity and food justice in the City led to lively discussions about addressing the challenges to fair access to healthy food. All the stakeholders that work so hard to create a fair food system for residents in Cambridge felt inspired and encouraged by the event. One attendee told us *"Hearing impactful stories from people with lived experience is so powerful"* after watching the video 'Hidden Voices' which premiered at the event. You can view the video by clicking [here](#)



Binnie and Dora worked alongside Cambridge City Foodbank, Cambridge Sustainable Food and colleagues in Integrated Care to pull the event together and provide such a valuable space for everyone to come together. Cambridge Sustainable Food also provided a delicious plant based lunch enjoyed by all delegates!

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD



The new Youth Advisory Board was launched during October half term, with Caroline and Adie leading a session with interested children and young people at Browns Field Community Centre. They were joined by Code Zone who provided some virtual reality games, helping the young people begin to generate ideas for how they want to be involved in decision making and local democracy. They are currently deciding together how the group will run moving forward and the type of projects they want to get involved in. Look out for more in coming editions of the newsletter!

FOOD HUB TRIP

In September Binnie arranged for volunteers and staff from food hubs in the city to go on a trip to Brighton & Hove Food Partnership. They visited places and spaces offering different community schemes around food access, including a café using surplus food and offering volunteer training opportunities. Everyone enjoyed sharing learning, looking at similarities to what they do here in Cambridge, and were inspired to help move the city food hubs into more sustainable models in the future.



What's been happening?



OCTOBER HALF TERM



October half term turned out to be a very busy week for our team as we supported activities out in the community including the ever popular holiday lunches at our community centres with Cambridge Sustainable Food.



An all day food and gardening event at Akeman Community Centre was part of the Food For The Planet Festival. Working in partnership with Cambridge Sustainable Food and the Bangladesh Welfare and Cultural Association, with donations also from Pipasha Restaurant, it was a packed day of activities including a cooking demonstration and pumpkin carving, a community lunch, a seed, plant and gardening gear swap plus planting and gardening related crafts. A highlight was Sew Positive helping attendees turn a pair of jeans into a planter! It was brilliant to be joined by other groups and organisations, and to see what can be created when everyone comes together to make something happen.



Our new communities team held an open day at the new Darwin Green Community Rooms with activities for the children, freshly made soup and tours of the building. With ideas from those that attended, this will help the centre team make decisions on what activities will be held at the centre once it's fully opened.



Eleven families were supported to attend the annual film festival at the Arts Picturehouse. The festival is free and open for anyone to attend independently, but we offered organisations working with families the opportunity to support them to attend as part of a supervised group, creating a safe and supportive environment for everyone to have a special social occasion together. The session started with some pre-show crafts for the children, before they all took to their seats to watch the film together!



We created some time and space for the new community at the Ironworks development and surrounding area to come together for a party at Mill Road Community Centre. Everyone showed up in their best spooky outfits and enjoyed crafts and games, snacks and face painting.



We joined the Council's community safety team at an event at Clay Farm Centre, alongside the police, fire brigade, Neighbourhood Watch and other local partners. Everyone that came along joined in crafts and activities and were able to ask about anything related to keeping their community a happy and safe place to live.



CAMBRIDGE CANCER CENTRE WELLBEING DAY

After helping to link in organisations to attend the Wellbeing Day at the Cambridge Cancer Help Centre, Binnie and Jo were also invited along to share information about all of the resources we have in the city that might help people over Winter. They enjoyed meeting everyone there, all of whom were either at different stages of their cancer journey, or were a family member or carer of someone who is. To find out more about the centre and how they help visit www.cambridgecancerhelp.org

News from our friends

WOMENS WELLNESS DAY



The Women's Wellness event, which was held at Cambridge Central Mosque on the 21st October, had a fantastic turnout of around 400 people. The event was dedicated to educating and empowering women to take control of their health during their journey across the life course.

There were expert speakers sharing valuable insights on the importance of cancer screening and holistic women's wellness. Dr. Susanna Unsworth, a renowned Women's Health and Menopause Specialist, was the keynote speaker who talked about "The perimenopause and ways women can help themselves."

Cambridgeshire South Care Partnerships' Integrated Neighbourhood City team, worked in collaboration with Cambridge Central Mosque, Cambridge City Council, NHS Primary Care Networks, the Edge Cafe and a variety of other partner agencies, such as Healthy You and members of the Womens Network in Cambridge, to deliver this amazing event that promoted women's health and wellbeing within the local community. There was a free, delicious, healthy lunch provided, while people mingled, connected and learned what support was available. One attendee described being at the event as "like getting an enormous hug". To view a video of the event click [here](#)

There will be news of the Men's Wellness Day being held at Cambridge United Football Ground in the next issue!

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES TEAM

Our friends in the Active Lifestyles and Recreation Team at Cambridge City Council work to inspire, enable and empower Cambridge residents to lead healthier and more active lifestyles. Activities are delivered both directly and in partnership, and are often promoted to those that might benefit the most.

You can find out about local opportunities by keeping in touch on [Facebook @getmovingcam](#) or [Instagram @getmovingcambridge](#). Alternatively check out the sport and fitness page on the City Council website www.cambridge.gov.uk/sport.



The Community Kickstart fund is also an excellent opportunity to fund local not for profit organisations with up to £500. This can be to set up sport or physical activity sessions in the city to benefit the health and wellbeing of the community. For more information and how to apply visit [Community Kickstart Fund - Cambridge City Council](#)

CARE TOGETHER

Colleagues at Cambridgeshire County Council's Care Together team have recently shared details of their new place-based Older Adults Social Inclusion Grants. This exciting new funding stream can go towards services, clubs and activities aimed at supporting older adults (over 65) with emerging care/support needs to be:

- socially included in their community
- more physically active
- as independent as they can be

For further details of the grants and application process you can visit [Care Together - Cambridgeshire County Council](#) or email Care.Together@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with any questions. The deadline for applications is Saturday 23rd December at 5pm.

What's Coming Up?

- ➔ **Christmas Hamper Drive!** This year we are once again working with Cambridge Sustainable Food and Cambridge City Foodbank to provide much needed support to around 800 local families. A food parcel will be sent to each family, including fresh food, some traditional treats, and where possible a game or toy. Some of the packages will be distributed at food hubs and events held by local groups and organisations, and some will be delivered direct to families.

How to support the appeal

- Register to donate a hamper - go to Eventbrite and search 'Cambridge Hamper Appeal' or click [here](#)
- Donate funds to provide fresh vegetables - go to GoFundMe and search 'Cambridge Families' or click [here](#)
- You can also donate games and gifts via [Lighthouse Toys](#) or our [John Lewis Gift Wishlist](#). You can of course use other suppliers as preferred!

Gifts can be delivered, during opening hours, to

- Brownsfield Community Centre, 31A Green End Road, Cambridge, CB4 1RU
- NatWest, 21 Petty Cury, CB2 3NE (City Centre Branch)
- Meadows Community Centre, 299 Arbury Road, Cambridge CB4 2LJ
- Clay Farm Community Centre, Hobson Square, Trumpington CB2 9FN



- ➔ Look out for events and activities in neighbourhoods over the coming months and festive holidays on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cambcommdev
- ➔ Jo Chisolm and other members of the team will be providing a drop in space for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities at Browns Field Community Centre every Friday 10am to 12 noon. Support will be available on a wide range of topics including physical and mental health, education, the cost of living, disability and carers support, housing and accommodation and community safety. Pop along and say hello, there will refreshments available too!
- ➔ Last year many 'Warm Spaces' were created, either from existing groups or brand new settings, providing friendship and opportunities to keep warm in welcoming community spaces. Many of the warm spaces have continued throughout the year and have adapted as their communities have told them what works for them! We'll be collating all of the places that we know of providing spaces to come together again over the winter and this will be available on our website www.cambridge.gov.uk/warm-and-welcoming-spaces
- ➔ We've started work on a strategy for youth to ensure we are working collaboratively and consistently across the council and with partners to ensure we support young people to thrive. The project will begin with a series of workshops with relevant stakeholders later in the year. For more information email communitydevelopment@cambridge.gov.uk with 'Youth Strategy' as the subject title.
- ➔ Our events equipment hiring facility - the Community Cupboard - at Browns Field Community Centre is where city based groups and organisations can hire equipment, reducing the impact on the environment of buying 'new' things that may only be used for limited periods. Membership is free to local groups and organisations and charges are minimal. Find out more by visiting www.communitycupboard.cambridge.gov.uk and email communitycupboard@cambridge.gov.uk

Don't forget, if you want to make sure you get the next newsletter straight to your inbox email communitydevelopment@cambridge.gov.uk or message us through our facebook page www.facebook.com/cambcommdev