

Districtwide Community Updates

- Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 have been approved for a range of community groups across the district using money from North Herts Prosperity Fund, a pot of £210,000 funded by the UK Government.
- The Community Partnerships Team have launched the North Herts Heroes Awards. There are five categories to nominate anyone who you think deserves to be recognised for their services to our local community. The Awards will be presented at the Chairs Civic event on Friday 28th February. Information on how to nominate are available on the North Herts Council website.
[North Herts Heroes | North Herts Council](#)
- The Community Partnerships team worked with the Royal British Legion and Letchworth BID to deliver the Letchworth Remembrance Day parade on 10 November 2024.
- Co-ordinating various local and district wide Network Groups including Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and Green and Growing Group.
- Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.
- Continuing to facilitate NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries.
- Sharing and disseminating information on social media and to mailing lists, keeping in touch with the community, voluntary, statutory, and non-statutory agencies.

Area Community Updates

- The Community Partnerships Officer has met with local organisations to build connections and support, this includes Walsworth Community Centre Committee and North Herts African and Caribbean Community Group.
- This also includes networking at events such as the Herts County Council Annual Conference, Triangle Community Garden Summer Fete, Live Longer Better event at North Herts Leisure Centre and Citizens Advice AGM.
- Officer support at the Churchgate Regeneration Hub.
- North Herts College held The Big Draw Festival on 29th October, which had been part funded by a Hitchin Community Grant. Below is feedback from the grant applicant:

"The Big Draw Festival was a huge success with over 300 people attending this year and it was brilliant to see the local community come together to explore their creativity. Big Draw events are held across the country and it was a great opportunity to open our doors and showcase some of the curriculum areas we offer post-16. Seeing the smiles on people's faces, from parents and grandparents to children of all ages, has really helped to show the positive influence art can have on our wellbeing. It's been great to see all areas of the college come together to run this fantastic event and we can't wait to start planning our next community event!

The community grant we obtained really helped to make the event extra special and ensured we had enough resources so that everyone could join in"

Below is a list of community groups in Hitchin that received funding from the Prosperity Fund:

- £6,000 - FC Comets, a youth football club in Hitchin, towards a mower that is suitable for the grounds in autumn/winter months.
- £12,225 - Hitchin Youth Allotment to expand and offer more opportunities to schools and community groups to take part in their activities.
- £19,134 - North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum towards community projects and revitalising their base.
- £20,000 - Triangle Community Garden towards making plots more accessible, providing a kitchen area and improving biodiversity.
- £5,427 - Zeo Church towards their Helping Hands project, which improves people's homes with volunteers carrying out 'odd jobs'.
- The full list can be found here [Over £200k given to 20 groups making a difference in North Herts | North Herts Council](#)