

IMPACT REPORT 2024/25



**SUPPORTING
COMMUNITIES
GRANT FUND**

RUSHMOOR
BOROUGH COUNCIL

FOREWORD

It is wonderful to celebrate the energy and passion shown by the local groups who benefited from Rushmoor Borough Council's Supporting Communities grants scheme in 2024-25.

Organisations of all sizes from across the borough came forward with inspiring ideas to bring people together and make a real difference in our communities.

With grants of up to £1,000, the scheme offered flexible support for small projects that have a big impact.

This year's focus sparked a fantastic range of initiatives that reflect the very best of Rushmoor's community spirit.

The objectives were:

- Connecting communities
- Improving wellbeing
- Supporting young people
- Easing financial pressures

What truly stands out is the commitment to all in our community shown by the groups involved. Their projects are helping residents feel more supported and more connected, especially at a time when many are facing real challenges.

This report celebrates their achievements and the positive change they are creating across our borough. I hope it encourages even more local organisations to get involved and continue building a stronger, more connected Rushmoor.

INTRODUCTION

Rushmoor BC's Supporting Communities grants scheme was open to applications during September and October 2024 for projects that would make a difference to people's lives and help bring communities together. The funding of up to £1000, was open to a wide variety of organisations active in the local community.

The aim of this grant scheme is to provide flexible funding for projects that will make a difference to local people's lives.

Our focus for this scheme linked to Rushmoor's Supporting Communities Strategy and aimed to support small, local projects addressing at least one of these themes:

- Connecting communities
- Improving physical and mental health
- Providing aspirations for young people and increasing their resilience
- Helping with economic hardship
- Easing cost of living pressures

Forty-two applications were received, and twenty-eight were granted funding, of which six were fully funded and the rest received partial awards. A further ten applications were agreed to be more appropriately funded via other available Rushmoor BC funding streams.

Groups have up to twelve months in which to spend their grant and complete their project or activity, and this report gathers together much of the feedback received from groups as a condition of receiving a grant.

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024

SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED

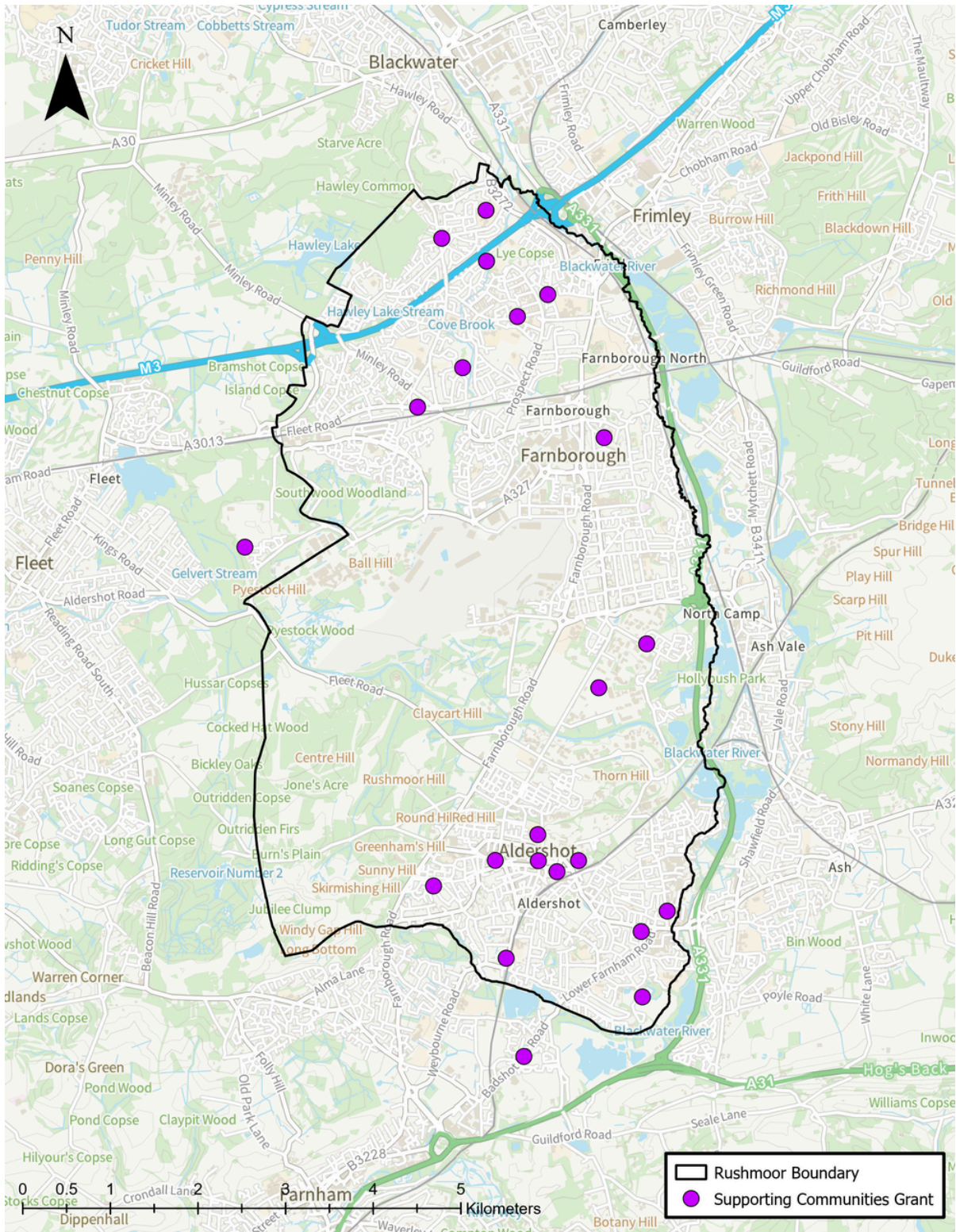
Applicant	Project	Grant award (£)
3rd Farnborough Scouts	Replace clubroom tables and chairs	750
Marlborough Infant School	Imaginative Play Area	684
Little Bears Toddler Group	Play mats and essentials	174
Aldershot Supporters Trust FC	Replace football kit and equipment	700
HomeStart Hampshire	Festive Family Gifts	750
Shots in the Community Foundation	Veterans Christmas Lunch	1000
Rushmoor Concert Band	Purchase new sheet music	895
The Vine	School holiday free lunch packs for families in need	750
Fernlea Preschool (Joy Harris)	Classroom furniture	746
1st Cove Cubs	Group Camp 2025	581
Talavera Infant School	Talavera Families Support Hub	750
Aldershot Underwood Bowling Club	Ditching mat replacement	500
Aldershot Cricket Club	Clubs Volunteer coaching qualifications	675
St. Peter's Church	Foodbank set up	1000

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SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED

Applicant	Project	Grant award (£)
MHA Communities	Seated Pilates and activities	715
3rd Cove Brownies	Activities for club	600
Rushmoor Healthy Living	Rehab induction class	750
Community Grub Hub	Accessing additional services	840
Aldershot Methodist Church	AMC Wellbeing Café	700
Hartland Men's Shed	Lathe purchase	950
14th Aldershot (Pegasus) Scout Group	Outdoor activities and heaters	750
4th Aldershot Scouts	Replacement of group tents	800
Oak Farm Learning and Activities Centre	Celebrating OFLAC FAB Café	650
Tice's Meadow	Nestbox Buildathon	570
6th Farnborough Scout Group	Day of adventurous activities	750
2nd Cove Cub Pack	Science Museum Trip	550
Rushmoor Royals	Equipment for swimming competitions	700
Rushmoor Artistic Swimming Club	Costumes and courses for coaches/judges	720

AWARDS 2024 - 2025



This map illustrates distribution of awards throughout the Borough. Some awards aren't shown as a marker if they span a wider area or multiple locations. A small number of awards appear outside the borough, this is where the project involves Rushmoor residents, however the group's base is located just outside the border.

FEEDBACK FROM PROJECTS AWARDED IN 2024/25

Marlborough Infant School

£684

Imaginative Play

The School bought resources for its outside classroom, rebranded as “The Calm Castle”. It includes small world play animals and a table to put them on to promote language and imagination with the preschool children. Also a sturdy outside toy garage and floor mat, and a dolls house and peg people that continue the small world imaginative play and enable the children to play out their own lives as well as imagined scenarios. Bean bags and mats furnished the book corner and made it cosy and comfortable.

There are morning sessions for the preschool to bring the children in as part of their transition into school. This has benefited the children who start school in September and their families. Parents and the preschool have commented that they are feeling positive and calm about the move to school and are already talking about it with more positivity than before.

The space and resources are used every day by the children at lunchtimes. The Calm Castle is used for children who need space away from the noise and hectic movement that the playground provides. Many children benefit hugely from having somewhere to escape and engage in calmer, quieter activities.

10 – 30 children use the resource daily.



Shots in the Community Foundation

£1000

Veterans Christmas Lunch

The Foundation provided a free two-course Christmas lunch to military veterans. This has helped its aims of reducing veteran isolation and keeping them sociable. By bringing them together for special occasions, that sense of camaraderie and belongingness is renewed.

The Foundation has had plenty of positive feedback from attendees, and now see some more veterans on a regular basis at monthly coffee mornings.

70 military veterans (and family) benefited. The majority of these were over the age of 50 but there were some younger veterans.

“I have met people that I would not previously have met. Engaging with others has been far more beneficial than I could have imagined”

“Our week is brightened up immensely. Swapping stories with our sort of folk is great. Something for this 92 year old veteran to look forward to”



Rushmoor Concert Band

£900

Purchase of new sheet music

The band has been re-invigorated with new music, from modern movie scores such as “No time to Die”, through to Popular pieces such as “Adele in Symphony”, and “Fairytale of New York”. These were played at concerts in 2025 to thousands of people in the local community, including at the Armed Forces Day, and the Aldershot Proms in the Park.

The project has breathed new life into the band and the music it performs to the community. It’s also encouraging to see audiences grow and people return time and time again.

Sheet music is a long-lasting asset that’s shared among other bands in the area, so it will be played many times over by hundreds of players over the years and decades to come.



“Playing great arrangements of modern music has given me a renewed reason to return to playing music”
- *Band Member*



4th Aldershot Scouts

£800

Replacement of Group tents

The grant purchased four new 4-man tents for use by the Scout, Cub and Beaver groups run by the 4th Aldershot volunteering teams. These were used for the first time in August at the annual summer camp at Ferny Crofts campsite in the New Forest. 28 children from Aldershot attended for the week and spent their time building confidence by participating in a wide range of outdoor adventure activities.

The tents provided camping accommodation for 16 Cubs and Beavers. The Cubs and Beavers all learnt to how erect the tents and worked together as teams to keep their tents clean and tidy for the week.

The camp was a huge success with a lot more children able to attend than many Scout groups would usually consider taking, (28 children for 7 nights is quite a large camp).

The tents have been cleaned and safely stored at the Group HQ in Aldershot. They will be used again for future summer camps and may be used for other expeditions and trips that the group go on.

The children staying in the new tents described them as ‘wicked’ and were happy to boast they had the best tents on camp!



St. Peter's Church, Farnborough

£1000

Set up of new foodbank

The purpose of this grant was to enable the establishment of a foodbank distribution centre at St Peter's Church in partnership with Farnborough Foodbank and under the umbrella of Trussell.

St Peter's Church opened as a distribution centre in March 2025 and since then opens every Tuesday afternoon between 2-4.30pm. In the first 14 weeks of operating 51 referrals were fulfilled which represents 143 people in Rushmoor fed (81 adults and 62 children).

Just six months in, the project has been successfully set up with over 25 recruited and trained volunteers. It is helping to serve the people of Rushmoor on a weekly basis who are referred for emergency food support. Links have been made with the wider church community activities, particularly for children and families, via the Hub, an after-school club held in St Peter's Parish centre on a Tuesday afternoon.

"Thank you very much, means a lot to me"

"I would like to say a massive thank you from myself and on behalf of my Uncle to yourself and all the team at St Peter's. You really did take such a weight off my shoulders helping him and I can't thank you enough"

"I just want to say a heartfelt thank you for coming through for me in this difficult season"



Oak Farm Learning and Activities Centre (OFLAC)

£650

Celebrating OFLAC Café volunteers, and essential equipment

OFLAC held a Celebration event to mark the graduation of participants who completed twelve months of training in the OFLAC Café at Farnborough Library, as well as those that achieved their Food Foundation qualification through MCG Training.

The grant allowed OFLAC to recognise these achievements in a meaningful way, boosting participants' confidence and sense of pride and motivation to succeed. 22 OFLAC members, staff and volunteers attended the celebration. 10-12 adults with learning difficulties are supported each year through training and work experience placements.

OFLAC also purchased some new and essential equipment for the Café, which will continue to benefit new learners by providing a safe, practical and supportive environment to learn valuable life and employment skills.

Graduates said how proud they were to be celebrated for their achievements, and family members and support workers commented on how much progress they had seen in their loved ones' skills, independence and happiness since taking part in the training.



Tice's Meadow Bird Group

£570

Nestbox Buildathon

The grant was used to purchase materials and tools necessary to build and decorate the bird boxes for a community volunteer Buildathon in February 2025. The funding enabled various groups in the community to build, decorate and utilise bird boxes.

1000 nest boxes were built using all the materials purchased, and 50 local people attended through the day to help build and decorate the nest boxes. Painting the boxes were 10+ local families, 1st Aldershot Brownie Pack and Parkside Aldershot.

Decorating of six boxes was also carried out at Waverley Grange Care Home involving as many residents as possible.

The boxes were distributed around the community, such as local green spaces, gardens, farms, schools and allotments.



Rushmoor Royals Swimming Club

£700

Equipment for swimming competitions

The grant purchased a Flash Start unit and a printer to support the swimming competitions hosted throughout the year.

The club hosted competitions in March, May, June and July, and the new equipment played a key role in ensuring these meets ran smoothly and stayed on schedule, as each competition attracts over 300 swimmers.

Importantly, the Flash Start unit enabled several hearing-impaired athletes to compete, making these events more inclusive. This equipment continues to make a significant difference in improving accessibility for all participants.



Home-Start Hampshire

£750

Festive family gifts

Home-Start Hampshire supports families with children aged 0-11 years who, for a myriad of reasons, are finding life challenging.

The impact of financial worries extends beyond housing and finance; stress about finances can impact all areas of life including family relationships and mental and physical health. Many families are feeling isolated and overwhelmed and do not know where to go for support.

Support is focused on helping families make sustainable changes for the long-term benefit of the whole family unit. For the festive period in 2024 Home-Start wanted to be able to provide families with some short-term reprieve, and were able to do this by providing 25 of its supported families, (approximately 32 adults and 40 children), with a £30 grocery voucher..

Vouchers were distributed to families in December and January and the positive impact was significant. Vouchers enabled families a little breathing space at a time of year when financial pressure is often heightened. For those who rely on food banks and similar organisations, the vouchers gave families the opportunity to go shopping themselves and have some independence with the items there were purchasing. The unexpected uplift was welcomed by families and the joy it bought our staff and volunteers to deliver this was also incredibly rewarding.

Families said how welcome the £30 voucher was and what a difference it made to their finances short term, which had a positive impact on their wellbeing too.


Aldershot Underwood Bowling Club

£500

Ditching mat replacement

The grant helped replace the rubber lining for the Green's ditches. The old ditch liners were made of soft foam rubber and were degenerating due to their age and had moss/grass growing on/through them. This, along with covering the ditch walls, means that the Green itself looks smarter and has helped instil a renewed sense of pride in the Club.

There are 47 playing members, all of whom directly benefit from the improvement in the ditch liners. Plus, the Club hosts up to three games per week during the playing season, and has hosted the Dolly Anstey, a prestigious North Hampshire Women's Bowling Association competition and received many favourable comments about the condition of the Green. As the new ditch liners can be lifted easily, they will be cleaned and stored indoors over the winter, so should be useable for many years to come.



"They look so much smarter"

"The new liners have helped us to maintain the very high standard of our Green for members and visiting teams"

14th Aldershot (Pegasus) Scout Group

£750

Outdoor activities and heaters

The grant was used to buy heaters that were installed at the Group's hall. Installing modern heating was cost efficient and the hall was kept warmer during winter months. The shelter and tables have been used for camping and meetings.

It directly benefits 93 children aged between 4 to 14 and the adult volunteers.

Children have been happy that the hall is warmer during the meetings.

Community Grub Hub

£850

Accessing additional support services

The grant contributed towards the utility costs of the Help Hub at the Grub Hub, which provides signposting and support to Grub Hub visitors in partnership with Citizens Advice.

The Help Hub has helped 245 guests to date and about seven new guests each week. From building awareness of support available and helping to access it to directly supporting guests on a weekly basis, feedback from guests suggests that this support has been critical in improving their circumstances, health and lifestyles.

‘I arrived here with nothing , you have given more so much more than just the food and cleaning products , you have reminded me there are good people. I feel safe here.’ (Woman housed at the refuge)

Talavera Infant School

£750

Talavera Families Support Hub

The Talavera Families Support Hub began in September 2024 to create a warm and helpful environment for parents of children with special needs who attend the school. It aims to provide parents with a network of friends as well as professional advice from support agencies.

The grant was used to organise two parent workshops run by Mustard Seed Autism Trust focussed on Sensory and Physical Occupational Therapy. Remaining funds were used to offer direct support by Mustard Seed staff.

In total the grant has allowed 20 families to access Occupational Therapy support.

2nd Cove Cub Pack

£550

London Science Museum trip

The grant supported the travel for a trip to the Science Museum in London by 17 Cubs and Beavers and volunteer adults.

Cubs from all different backgrounds went on the visit. It was very engaging, and entertaining, learning about space, forces, and other science topics. The Cubs went out to space in the 4D cinema!

The feedback from the Cubs was fantastic, and they were all very happy. The attentiveness from a number of neurodiverse cubs, showed how well it was put together.

Rushmoor Artistic Swimming Club

£720

Courses for volunteer coaches and judges

The grant part-funded training for four volunteers/coaches and this has made a huge difference to the club, which has been able to provide additional training sessions for the 156 members and to open new trials for new young members. The entire club has benefited from the funding which is amazing.

This resulted in successes at the National Championships, regional championships, and successful grading days. The club is growing and is welcoming more and more boys and girls every six months.

Two of the Club's younger coaches gained recognition at the Swim England South East Awards, placing 2nd and 3rd for Young Volunteer of the Year.

3rd Farnborough Scouts

£750

Replace Clubroom tables and chairs

The Scout group was able to purchase 80 stackable chairs and trolleys, and 8 Go Pac Tables. These are now being used several times a week by over 140 members of the group from Squirrels to Explorers for a range of activities. They are also used by other community groups who use the Scout HQ from time to time.

The equipment is reliable, safe, and makes good use of the facility's limited storage facilities. It will continue to benefit the group for many years to come.

6th Farnborough Scout Group

£750

Day of adventurous activities

The grant was used towards the sole occupancy of the campsite for the Group day camp, providing a day packed with adventurous activities for 60 children aged 8 to 14 who might not otherwise get to experience this. Activities were Air rifle shooting, Archery, Climbing, tomahawk throwing and survival skills. All attendees developed their skills, got to take part in a larger than normal event and improved the visibility of a community charity.

60 Children gained access to the adventurous activities.

13 leaders/instructors were able to use their permits/qualifications.

Parents of 60 children got to see their children experience adventure and come home tired yet excited.

"Thank you for an amazing day, had great fun"

"Awesome awesome day"

"The young people kept smiling all day and despite the intensity of the day went home grubby and happy"

Aldershot Cricket Club

£475

Club volunteer coaching qualifications

The funding allowed four of the Club's volunteer coaches to gain their ECB coaching qualifications. Two coaches undertook ECB Foundation Coach awards, and two more undertook the ECB Core Coach award.

They previously held no coaching experience but wanted to volunteer for coaching sessions in the youth section. The coaching qualifications have allowed them to get expert guidance and further understanding on how to effectively deliver cricket sessions for the youth section players. Having this knowledge has benefited players with guidance on technical skills.

The coaches who undertook their qualification have stated they are thankful for giving them the opportunity to enhance their coaching skills.

3rd Cove Brownies

£750

Club activities

The Group focussed the grant on educating the girls on nature and wildlife and enjoying this in our local community. The girls learned about hedgehogs and birds and the Group has purchased kits to create hedgehog houses and bird feeders so they can continue to enjoy nature with their families by looking out for them at home.

They also booked Crocodile Encounter, a very informative 90-minute workshop where all the girls got to hold the majority of these rescued animals and learn about animal care and welfare. It was great to see the girls engage, ask questions and gain confidence by holding the animals.

There was also a sleepover at Legoland. The girls stayed in the learning academy and the trip included a special robotics workshop where they were given a task to create a new Legoland ride and build a prototype with Lego, synchronised music and lights.

Feedback from parents for the activities has been extremely positive.

Fernlea Preschool

£750

Classroom furniture

The project was to furnish the new building the Preschool had fundraised towards. The grant went towards the cost of chairs for the children's use and enabled the separation of different age groups with different needs, using the space to enhance the children's learning.

The children have benefited by having a more relaxed and quieter environment in which to learn.

Current and new parents have all commented on the lovely space. The children are really keen to work in the new environment, and equally the staff have commented on the benefits of working with one age group of children.

1st Cove Scout Group

£581

Group Camp 2025

The grant covered camp fees for 40 young people on the Group's Summer Camp, meaning more young people could benefit from time away learning new life skills.

Ages ranged from 4 through to 14, with ten Adult Leaders present throughout the whole week.

The low cost of the camp was seen as great value by parents, who appreciate the time of the volunteers organising such a great camp.

Aldershot FC Supporters Trust

£700

Replace football kit and training equipment

The group funded new football kit for its Sunday league football team. The difference this has made has been very refreshing! The previous kit was worn, torn and tatted. Now, the team are able to play in brand new shirts, and shorts.

20 players have benefited, of ages are between 16 – 30, some of whom genuinely suffer with hardship away from football.


The Vine Centre

£750

School holiday free lunch packs for vulnerable families

This grant was used to help pay for the food allocated to families as part of the Centre's 'Kids Lunches' project during the school summer holiday in 2025, offering assistance to families with the cost of lunches. Each family was offered enough food to cover 5 lunches per child per week. Families were able to access this project quickly and easily as well as find out about other services the Vine Centre has to offer.

The funding directly benefited 72 children from 28 families.



"I honestly don't know how I would have coped this summer without the Vine Centre"



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IMPACT REPORT 2024/25

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