

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

RUSHMOOR
BOROUGH COUNCIL

FARNBOROUGH
AIRPORT

FOREWORD

It has been truly inspiring to witness the breadth and diversity of projects that have received support through the Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Grant over the past year. From the creation of community gardens and youth engagement programmes, to inclusive arts initiatives and improved access to green spaces, the funded projects are having a real and lasting impact on our local community.

What makes these initiatives especially powerful is that they not only contribute to environmental improvement, but also deliver wider social benefits, helping people to learn new skills, improve their health and wellbeing, and foster a deeper sense of community pride and connection. This aligns closely with one of Rushmoor's key priorities: supporting our communities to become healthier and stronger.

It's been particularly encouraging to see local groups working together in partnership, demonstrating the value of collaboration in creating positive change. Their dedication and innovation are helping to shape a more resilient and inclusive Rushmoor.

This report highlights some of the fantastic feedback from projects completed throughout 2024, and clearly illustrates the difference they are making to people's lives across our borough. We hope it inspires even more local organisations to get involved in the future.



Cllr Sophie Porter

Portfolio Holder Community & Residents
Rushmoor Borough Council

Farnborough Airport pays a levy of £2 or £5 for every take-off or landing, depending on aircraft type and weight. This money gets paid into a funding pot, which is awarded to community environmental projects located within a 5km radius of the middle point of the runway.

CRITERIA



Project must be located within 5km (3 miles) of the centre of the airport.



The area must be demonstrably & regularly affected by aircrafts travelling to and from Farnborough Airport.



It must have public access to be able to be enjoyed by community as a whole.



It must include an environmental improvement, such as a reduction of the environmental impact of the local area. For example, this could be by planting, reducing carbon or demonstrating climate change action.

(Projects cannot be retrospective)

WHO CAN APPLY

The fund is available to Charitable Organisations & Community Groups under the following criteria:



Groups must be a properly constituted not-for-profit and have a bank account.



Must have an appropriate Safeguarding Policy if working with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

In exceptional circumstances, we may support other organisations where a project will improve the environment and can demonstrate it is a not-for-profit activity

AREA COVERED BY FUND

LOCAL AUTHORITIES:

- Guildford
- Hart
- Rushmoor
- Surrey Heath
- Waverley

— Rushmoor Boundary

--- 5km Radius

● Centre of the main runway



GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024

SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED

Parkside - £3,135

New Garden Group Set Up

Conservation Volunteers - £635

Wellesley Woodlands - Composting Toilet

Rushmoor Voluntary Services - £25,476

Blooming Minds

Frimley Health Charity - £5,521

Refurbishment of Café Glade Courtyard,
Frimley Park Hospital

Creative Arts Response - £3,132

Art Outside of the Gallery*^

The Source Young People's Charity -

£4,800

Skills for Life - Bike Maintenance

OFLAC - £2,287

Accessible Garden Seating

Aldershot Civic Society - £4,171

Aldershot Station Adoption*^

**West End Centre & Hampshire Cultural
Trust** - £23,340

The Places That Link Us*^

Tower Hill - £1,000

Eco Hub*^

Cove Brook Greenway - £15,400

Resurfacing of the Greenway^

SATRO - £4,750

Planet Utopia*^

* PROJECTS STILL TO BE COMPLETED

^ AWAITING FEEDBACK

TOTAL AWARDED

FOR 2024:

£93,647

FEEDBACK FROM PROJECTS AWARDED IN 2024

Frimley Health Charity

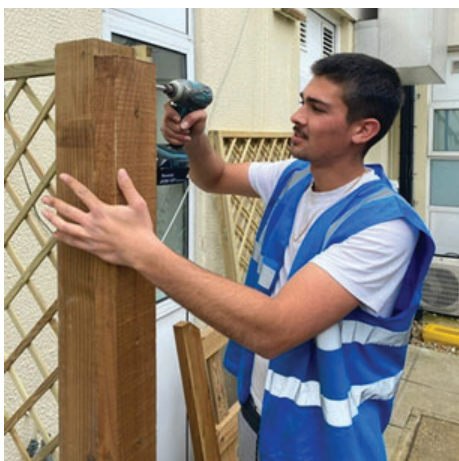
£5,521

Refurbishment of the Café Glade Courtyard at Frimley Park Hospital

The project refurbished the patio space attached to Café Glade. This included new canopies, wheelchair friendly furniture, landscaping, gardening and erection of new fencing. Gardening included improvement of garden beds to increase soil quality and attract more wildlife

This has meant that the space is much more useable for patients and their families to go for fresh air, but also be able to have a shaded area, which otherwise could get very hot in the summer.

This has meant that more people are able to use and enjoy outdoor space.



“ It feels like home
- Regular patient at the
hospital

Rushmoor Voluntary Services

£25,476

Blooming Minds - Farnborough Rotary Accessible Garden

This award has meant that the initial works at the Farnborough Rotary Accessible Garden have been completed. This includes resurfacing the hard standing area, repair of the retaining wall and access ramp, installing a lean-to and pergola, and building permanent composters.

Fellow allotment holders have engaged with the project, commenting on what a difference it makes to the entrance to the site.

A key result of the project has been an increase in motivation of Blooming Marvellous supported volunteers, the successful delivery of the first Blooming Minds programme and the development of the Rushmoor Green Community Forum.

Additionally, the site has been used to grow vegetables to supply local foodbanks; 73 kilograms have been provided since harvesting began.

The volunteers completed a 6 monthly assessment regarding their wellbeing. Over 50% have stated that the FRAG site has given them more motivation, energy and a sense of achievement.



OFLAC (Oak Farm Learning and Activities Centre)

£2,287

Accessible Garden Seating

Having accessible garden seating with shade in OFLAC's community garden has made a huge difference to OFLAC's members. They are all able to sit outside regardless of their disability and enjoy the garden together.

Since this project, more members have been able to go out into the garden for activities and lunch. Feedback from members has been positive, showing how they love the seating and how great the garden looks now. Members who didn't go outside have since joined in activities.

This area is used by up to 50 people, mainly adults, with a learning disability. This is also used when families visit the day service for events where it is used by adults, young people and children.



"I love going into the garden and sitting at the new tables"



The Conservation Volunteers

£635

Accessible composting Toilet

The accessible toilet kit purchased with this funding makes provision for people with mobility impairments to join in with their outdoor events within Wellesley Woodlands in a safe and inclusive way, with confidence, whatever the weather.

This kit allows them to reach out further into harder to reach communities through their events; actively promoting direct engagement with nature, with all the health and wellbeing benefits this provenly provides.

An unexpected outcome so far is that younger people with mobility impairment are feeling more confident to join in with their woodland events.



The Source Young People's Charity

£4,800

Skills for Life – Bike Maintenance

The Skills for Life Project has provided 60 Bike Maintenance training workshops, enabling 10 local young people to learn about and develop Bike Maintenance skills. These young people were all struggling with their wellbeing in various ways, and the programme was designed to support personal skills for each participant as well. The additional personal development skills include: social skills, communication skills, resilience, practical work skills and employability skills.

The project originally planned for 6 participants but this was increased to 10 by supporting some young people in small groups, as well as one to one sessions. All the participants / trainees are in need of wellbeing support. This includes young people who are neurodivergent, have social anxiety, unemployed, have OCD, and homeless (Hostel supported living).

"I love learning about Bike Maintenance. The group is small, friendly and welcoming too, which I really like"

Participant

"My son enjoyed it so much. It has offered him a space to meet new people who care and are fun to be around, it has given him skills to look after his bike and confidence to maintain it"

Participant's Parent



Parkside (Aldershot & District Learning Disability)

£3,135

New Garden Group

This grant meant that Parkside was able to purchase raised bed frames, compost, topsoil and composter.

This project has transformed the front area of their main premises into a vibrant and inclusive garden space, re-established their Thursday gardening group (seven service users with learning disabilities), created the opportunity to involve over 40 additional day care users in future sessions, and enhanced community engagement & visibility through a welcoming outdoor space.



FEEDBACK FROM PROJECTS AWARDED IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Community Grub Hub

£2,122

Outdoor Food Sanctuary

The Community Grub Hub has transformed their outside space by purchasing planters, a greenhouse, tools and plants in order to grow fruit trees and vegetables. Not only has this improved the look of their outside space, but also repurposed it to become a useful area to grow fruit vegetables.

Not only are they able to use the produce within their project, but they can also share with people how easy it is to grow their own, even with little space.

The Grub Hub serves on average 220 households each week, all of whom visit them at their site. Around half of these households have children. They can serve more people if they need to and the fruit and veg they grow can be given away to those who visit.

Many visitors have said that the space looks better and are surprised that they're able to grow fruit and veg with such little space.

Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust

£26,180

Urban Tree Planting for a Resilient Natural Environment

The aim of this project was to directly deliver carbon reduction through tree planting. All the residents of the five wards where the trees were planted will benefit in the long term, as the trees mature through improved quality of place. Urban trees are known to provide multiple advantages to the urban environment, through improved landscape, particulate pollution and noise abatement.

A project team of Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust trustees and Rushmoor BC officers was established, and meetings held to identify the planting areas.

This project grant award was used as 20% match funding for the Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge Fund, which successfully secured £129,972. This was awarded for the planting and maintenance of 194 trees.

In Winter 23/24 a total of 30 trees were planted, with the remaining 164 trees being planted in November - December 2024.

Rushmoor Borough Council will continue to maintain the trees for the 3 years aftercare stipulated by the Forestry Commissions Urban Tree Challenge Fund.



Planting at Redan Hill Gardens



Planting at Sheridan Close

CELEBRATION EVENT MARCH 2024

Celebration Event for 2024 awardees

April 2025

Farnborough Airport

Farnborough Airport hosted a celebration event for those who received funding in 2024, to showcase the impact that the fund has had.

The event included presentations from the following organisations & projects:

- The Source Young People's Charity – Skills for Life: Bike Maintenance Project
- Rushmoor Voluntary Service – Blooming Minds Project
- The Places that Link Us Project

Each shared the amazing work these groups are undertaking that is benefiting the local community and the positive impact that the funding has had on the surrounding environment.



AWARDS 2015 - 2024

Over the last decade the Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund has awarded £575,515 to 92 projects.



 Rushmoor District Boundary

 5km Radius

 Farnborough Airport Runway

 Awards*

**This is an overview to show the spread of awards throughout the radius. Some awards haven't been included eg. if they span a wider area or multiple locations. Some points are plotted within the middle of a larger project area, whilst others represent multiple awards.*



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