

Community Mobilisation 'Better Together'

better
together

Yulia La-Kruz/Kelly Webb

January 2023

better together

- Better Together builds on the ‘hands on’ projects that people created during the pandemic in their own neighbourhoods.
- Practical support, skills development, networking and capacity building will be provided to individuals and new/existing community groups to enable new initiatives and groups.
- Projects include:
 - Sharing skills, spaces and resources
 - Families working and playing more together.
 - Batch cooking and community meals.
 - Food growing and tree planting.
 - Trading, making and repairing.

Community Mobilisation schemes

- ***Community Membership*** - an easily accessible portal/network of services where residents and community groups can link up regarding local services, support groups and harness opportunities to share their work and projects
- ***Community Hubs*** – build a virtual community hub portal, creating a campus for social change, alongside pop-up physical hubs, creating inclusive work and co-production space for local residents and organisations to deliver community events, activities, training, talks and support networks
- ***Social Action and Volunteering*** – build community capacity by promoting and widening opportunities for the community to participate and volunteer in local activities and projects to address local issues
- ***Community Toolkit*** – create an online and hard copy of a Community Planning toolkit to improve skills and knowledge for planning and empowerment through training for communities and services on how to do it
- ***Vocational Learning and Development Placements*** – as part of UKSPF, create opportunities that enable participants to develop their professional skills and progress into employment
- ***Advice & Support for community initiatives*** - Support community to develop project plans, offer funding advice and provide space to hold community meetings and activities.

What has been achieved

- Online survey ‘Better together’ launched in July 2022 to establish how people feel about their community, reviewing the needs of the community and identify where the Council can best support.
- Over 105 responses received with majority (over 83%) from residents in the district:
- The ideas that resident would like to take part in or initiate include:
 - Pop-up indoor and outdoor cinemas
 - Community gardening
 - Recreational centre for older people and families
 - Upcycling projects to help to reduce the waste
 - Getting involved in litter picks
 - Volunteering more in their community
 - Cookery courses for those on a low income

What has been achieved

Mums into Business

Organised in partnership with WKHA, an 8 week course for women with children, run at Swanley Children Centre to learn skills required to set-up a business, to establish a network and put acquired skills into practice by co-producing the product and sell it at the Swanley market at the end of the course.

Volunteer Fair

In partnership with IMAGO, we organised and hosted a Volunteer Fair in October 2022 at The Stag Theatre. Nearly 100 visitors attended the event - looking for opportunities to volunteer. Over 60 stallholders attended. The Communities team recruited a volunteer to support postnatal classes.



SEVENOAKS VOLUNTEER FAIR
in partnership with Sevenoaks District Council

IMAGO
Volunteer Centre
West Kent

Join us to find opportunities with local voluntary groups and organisations

Thursday 20th October - 11am to 2pm
The Plaza Suite at the Stag Sevenoaks,
London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ZZ

Give as much or as little time as you can:
•Share Skills •Meet New People •Make a Positive Impact
•Build Confidence & Self Esteem •Improve your Health & Wellbeing

IMAGO
Your local charity
Building Resilience,
Facilitating Change
Since 1984

Kent
Volunteer
Partnership

Sevenoaks
District Council

www.imago.community
Registered charity number: 1069388 Registered company number: 5354462

What has been achieved

- 5-week cooking courses for vulnerable families.
- Help save money on food costs for families.
- Recipes adapted to use ingredients available through foodbanks and in support food parcels.
- Delivered by our One You advisers via Zoom
- Each family receives a free slow cooker and spices set.
- Referrals can also be made through our Housing and HERO teams.

Let's Cook! **FREE**

Learn how to cook healthy food on a budget with our online cooking course starting October 2022.

Our five-week course will help you prepare cost-effective, nutritious and delicious meals, reduce food waste and more!

Everyone who completes the course will receive a **FREE** slow cooker worth £40 (T&Cs apply).

Book your place

Email healthy.living@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Call 01732 227000



What has been achieved

- Secured £172,000 funding as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to deliver the Growth Gurus Community Hub in Swanley. The project will:
- Provide each young person with a dedicated support advisor (The Education People) to enhance work readiness and wellbeing.
- Offer a dedicated Growth Guru to work with a young person, developing a personalised support package of mentoring, coaching and networking.
- Provide work experience and job preparation for young people entering the job market.
- Offer financial, emotional and physical well-being support and advice to transition people into work.
- Provide greater networking, collaboration and innovation plans for businesses and voluntary sector organisations.

What has been achieved

‘Grow a Healthy Swanley’

- Local residents and patients from the Patient Participation Group at Oaks Surgery (St Mary’s ward, Swanley) wanted help to set up a volunteer gardening group, to encourage involvement in various projects.
- We provided advice on how to form a community group and adopt a Constitution, helping the group develop a project plan.
- Communications and networking support (for example, engaging with the Seniors Action Forum) was provided to promote public meetings and volunteer recruitment process.
- We helped to find suitable venues activities and signposted to different sources of grant funding to support the delivery of the project plan.

What has been achieved

‘Warm Spaces’

- We created a directory of local warm spaces available online and in paper copy.
- We facilitated a marketing campaign to encourage even more local organisations to consider opening their facilities as safe warm spaces to our most vulnerable residents in the district.
- We helped to source suitable venues activities and signposted to different sources of grant funding to support the provision of warm spaces in the district.
- We provide advice on venue risk assessment and health and safety requirements, alongside basic safeguarding awareness training.
- We have 23 venues now registered on the directory.

What's coming up...

'Hello Lamppost'

- Community engagement and mobilisation tool using 'QR codes'
- Talking objects (benches, planters, coffee tables, public art, post boxes, etc), which engage the community in conversations about their local area - what they like, what they would improve, how they would improve it, what they can do to make things happen.

The project aims to:

- Empower residents to create projects that directly benefit them
- Help local people put forward ideas to grow together with friends and neighbours.
- Encourage local people to develop ideas for new livelihoods or community projects.
- Initiative being piloted in Swanley with 3 talking objects at Swanley park and the new skate park.



Hi 

Talk with me to find out what activities are on in Swanley Park and share your thoughts on our green space!

TEXT:

**HELLO LAMP
POST #SVLP1**

TO:

**07723
498872**

OR SCAN:



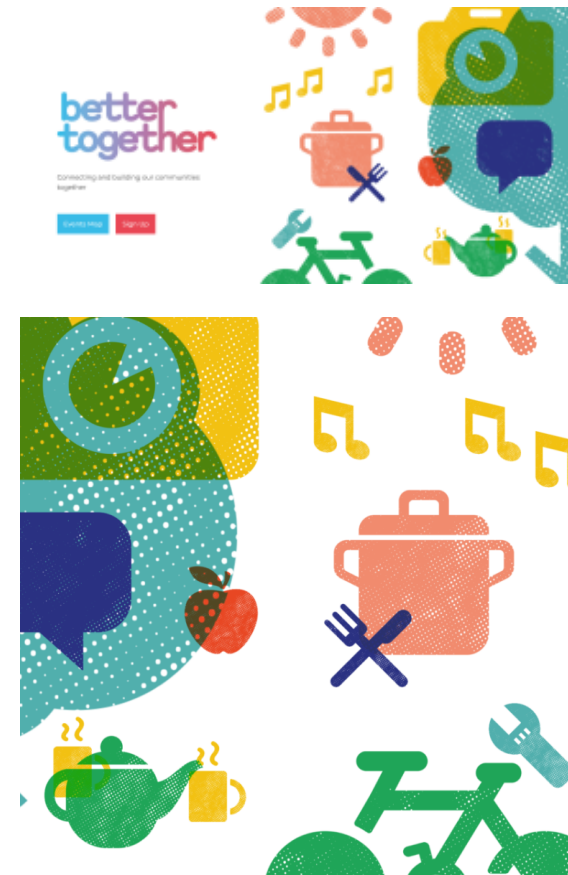
 All messages are anonymous
Standard messaging rates apply
For more information visit: hp.city

What's coming up...

'Better Together community hub'

<http://www.bettertogethercommunity.org.uk/staging/>

- The hub will mobilise people to bring forward ideas, skills, events and projects, which will help and connect their local community. From cooking, upcycling, gardening and food growing, sharing skills and learning, or even a film night, coffee morning or the chance to play, create or sing. The list could be endless.
- Better Together gives people the tools, advice and support you may need to help get you going, from funding advice, recruiting volunteers, social media and communications tips, help with venues, event organisation, business advice, training and networking.
- Time to Spare digital tools will be available to the hub's members immediately to improve data quality and record their own impact which can support them in getting grants from external organisations.
- An online Community Toolkit will be added providing helpful information to community groups, from funding and grants, venue hire, health and safety, working with volunteers etc.
- Directory of Services being updated.
- Website currently being tested - due to go live in March 2023.



Thank You

Any Questions