



THE HEART OF GREENSTEAD

Edition 4—Community Voices—The theme for the latest edition of the Heart of Greenstead News is 'Community Voices' - sharing and updating on some of the key themes and comments raised by local people across all of the engagement opportunities presented so far. We will also be providing information from our engagement team about activities they have undertaken in recent weeks or have planned for the future. We are pleased that Matt and Leila have joined C360. Matthew provides an introduction to his work and role. He has completed his initial 10-week internship and we have now extended this. Leila Harrison joined us as an Engagement Officer in September and has a keen interest in building further links with families and schools.

Welcome Matthew Mason! - A few words from our intern...

Hi, my name is Matt, and I am now working on the Heart of Greenstead project! Being about to go on to do my MA in Politics, I am doing a focused piece of work looking at student engagement in the area, filling in a significant engagement gap for this demographic.

The student experience is very important to me, so I have been speaking to students to understand their needs, living conditions and social interactions, thereby allowing us to represent them effectively within the project.

During my research, I have observed a divide between residents and students that make them feel excluded within the community and that students are either not aware of or do not want to use services available outside of campus.

As such, going forward with the HoG project, I will be looking to give power to the student voice, securing the satisfaction of their individual needs, whilst concurrently fostering a sense of community between the residential and student population.

By achieving the tasks outlined, I believe that we can build a better and more engaged community within Greenstead!



Matt is currently collecting survey responses from students, a copy of the survey, which can be found by following the hyperlink

Community Voices—in the course of engagement for the Heart of Greenstead programme, C360 have been hearing from local people and want to share some quotes that demonstrate what they care about and how they view the area....

I have lived in Greenstead all my life; I am content here. There is a loyal community spirit. I do not like the trouble that happens on the estate, it is the teenagers. There is nothing for them to do, the focus is all on little kids and the elderly not the bigger kids. I see housing development but the area itself is never improved. The roads are terrible, the potholes make driving dangerous. No one bothers with Greenstead. It will always be the same.

I work here but live out of area. I see a constant pattern of the same kind of people going round and round in circles. They do not get the right treatment they need for mental health and get stuck in a cycle of unemployment and benefits. It ripples through the community. It would be good if we could create local jobs. Greenstead looks run down. You never see police.

There needs to be more things for adults to do. I felt lonely during lock down. There are only clubs if you are little or old. There should be more support for mental health. There needs to be more shops, a bakery would be nice and more choice. I don't like the Co-op I go to Tesco. My kids are at school now and it would be nice to meet other mums in my situation.

I like the community centre, I stay in Greenstead I do not go out in town. The area needs cleaning up, there is litter and rubbish everywhere. People do not care around here about anything. It has changed and it is not for the better. The shopping centre looks run down, the kids hanging around make me uncomfortable, but they are just bored.

I have lived in Greenstead for ... [many] years and raised my children here. It is not what people expect it to be. There is a good community spirit, basic shops, and a barber. I would like to see more social groups for adults and for young lads. There is a lot of gangs of kids, nothing for them to do. Maybe there could be some outside space groups. It would be good if the council planted fruit trees around Greenstead so families with financial issues and their kids could pick fresh fruit. I would like to see more varied community events. My son does night work and I worry about him walking home in the small hours.

Life Stories Library

We are committed to ensuring that a range of experiences and voices are heard and involved in the processes linked to the engagement plan. Development of the life stories library has been a key priority to provide more detailed information about people's lives and circumstances, to better shape understanding as the project moves towards implementation. We have captured our first two stories and will be adding to the library over the coming weeks.



Do you have a story to share? Do you know someone who would like to talk to us more deeply? Please contact leilaharrison@community360.org.uk to find out more

Community360

Winsley's House, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1UG

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Community360 working with Healthwatch Essex

Since 2020, Community360 and Healthwatch Essex have been supported by the Health and Wellbeing Alliance to explore the role voluntary and community groups can play in improving the health and wellbeing of local people. They have formed a series of asset reports. Each report includes case studies and citizen's voices from across Colchester and Tendring. The next report will be researching topics linked to managing long term health conditions and assist the Stay Well domain group within the Alliance. Greenstead is a chosen area for engagement and capturing lived experience. Mel Archer from Healthwatch is working with Todorina Hammond from Community360 in October and November to gather information. **If you would like find out more contact todorinahammond@community360.org.uk**



The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWs)—Share Shacks

The Active Wellbeing Society will be working in Greenstead supporting the Essex Pedal Power project. Part of their work includes developing shared activities and they are seeking feedback from local people about the potential of operating a Share Shack in the area.



Share Shacks are spaces to share, learn, create and grow. A space to connect with each other by borrowing, repairing, re-using and being creative – a place to celebrate what's already in communities with communities.

Share Shacks are commonly known as 'Library of Things' where, instead of just borrowing books, you can borrow anything from cricket sets to carpet cleaners, saucepans to sewing machines. More than this, they also create space for the sharing of skills and resources, whether that's learning about mending clothes,


woodwork, repairing electrical items or writing poetry – it can be anything. Share Shacks run on a pay-as-you-feel basis where people can donate money, items or time by leading skill sharing sessions for example – everyone has complete discretion over the transaction and it doesn't create a barrier to those who are unable to offer something in return.

Embedded in communities, Share Shacks can help provide a holistic wraparound model of support, whilst creating a sustainable local economy system by eliminating waste and promoting the continual use of resources.

To find out more and contribute to the discussion about Share Shacks, please contact Beccy Crosby at TAWs—beccy.crosby@theaws.org

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Jumpstart Project

Primarily for 16–25-year-olds in the Greenstead and Colchester Town Centre areas (although not exclusively), please be aware of the Jumpstart Project. You can refer people into the project who are lacking a sense of purpose or direction, at risk of offending, exploitation or violent behaviour, Not in Education, Employment or Training and/or in need of additional support to achieve goals. For any queries or to make a referral, please contact Rob at LifeLinxs: admin@lifelinxs.co.uk

SPARKING HOPE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES



JUMPSTART PROJECT

WHO WE ARE
At LifeLinxs we are passionate about journeying with young people, whoever they are! We want to see them succeed. Our bespoke intervention packages allow for flexibility and gives the coach the freedom to use unconventional means to achieve the desired outcomes

SUITABLE FOR (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE:
Aged 16-25, lacking a sense of purpose or direction, at risk of offending, exploitation or violent behaviour, NEET and/or in need of additional support to achieve goals

DESIRED OUTCOMES
a) remain offence free b) fit into community life and/or widen their horizons
c) sustained employment/training/education d) diversion from negative lifestyle outcomes.

Effective and proven success rates enable partnership working that brings results

Colchester Borough Council | LIFE LINXS | ESSEX VIOLENCE & VULNERABILITY

Enquiries: admin@lifelinxs.co.uk

Free Winter Warmer Community Events

All Welcome



Lots of **Free** preloved winter coats and clothing for adults and children, shoes, school uniform, bedding, and other items to help your family keep warm and well this winter.

You are very welcome to pop in for a browse, have a chat, and pick up any items that you need
We are open to all

Information, advice, and support available from our friendly team of staff and volunteers from many different organisations

Also including Citizen's Advice, Christian's Against Poverty, Utilita Energy, and Colchester Borough Council, providing helpful information and support to communities across the borough

Wednesday 19th October 9.30am – 3.00pm
at Elm Church, Greenstead, Clematis Way, CO4 3PY

Thursday 20th October 9.00am – 4.00pm
at St Stephen's Church Centre, Canterbury Road, Colchester, CO2 7RY

Friday 21st October 11.00am – 4.00pm
at St Margaret's Church, Stansted Road, Colchester, CO2 8RA



Out and About

Working with partners throughout the year to meet and engage with a wide cross section of community members:

- **19th October—10 am**—Winter Warmer event, Elm church
- **8th November— 2 pm**—Taskforce meeting

further meetings booked for the 7th December, 10th January, 8th February and 8th March

- **9th November—10 am**—SAINT meeting
- **26th November**— Christmas Fair at Greenstead Community Centre

To be rearranged—Moneywise—an event in partnership with Independent Age. This event was postponed due to the period of national mourning and is being scheduled for November. Details will be circulated to partners.

We would like to say thank you to all of the locations who have hosted our team over recent weeks. We have been able to speak to more than 100 residents during longer conversations about their priorities and thoughts on the future.



In our next news... we will share updates about projects planned for Winter 2022/23

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