

Hi Vicki,

This sounds like a really positive piece of work, and it definitely builds on the conversations we've already been having around both the youth network and the wider neighbourhood-based approach. The focus on creating local spaces and connections where young people and communities can genuinely shape what's happening locally is something we're really supportive of.

The Young Commissioners that are part of the West Norfolk Youth Advisory Board have said that having their voice empowers them, and helps them to be heard not just within the youth group or meetings they attend, but also within their schools and the wider community. This enables them to help shape local decision-making and policy.

Through their involvement, young commissioners have worked alongside local councils, Parliament, MPs and wider partners to raise awareness of the key issues young people face. This work helps to build stronger connections between local organisations, schools, youth services and the wider community.

The role of trusted local spaces alongside youth organisations, can also play a pivotal part in bringing people together, supporting conversations, and helping to ensure that community voice is genuinely heard and acted upon.

Having safe spaces where young people can be also makes a real difference, as it gives them somewhere that feels like it belongs to them, where they can build relationships with trusted professionals. This sense of safety and belonging can also help young people develop a stronger connection to their community and a greater respect for the people and places within it.

Young people having a place where they can be heard and are actively listened to can make a real difference. Young people grow in confidence, build aspirations, friendships, communication skills and become more independent.

Thanks again for thinking of us for this — it would be great to continue being involved.

Best Wishes

Eloise Riches-Birt

Youth Worker

MAP



Hi Jon

As Headteacher of Greenpark Academy, I understand the importance of strong partnership working in improving outcomes for children, young people and families. Approaches that build on existing community assets and relationships, rather than introducing additional layers of provision, are key to achieving sustainable and meaningful impact.

The proposed development of neighbourhood forums, community hubs and strengthened VCSE partnerships has clear potential to enhance early support, improve coordination between services and enable a more preventative approach. This aligns closely with our work in school, where effective collaboration with local organisations is essential in addressing barriers to learning, supporting wellbeing and engaging families.

The emphasis on resident voice and community-led action, alongside the strengthening of trusted local relationships, is vital. The work already established across North Lynn demonstrates the value of this approach and I believe this proposal will further embed and extend that impact.

I fully support this initiative and the opportunity it presents to create a more connected, responsive and resilient local system for the benefit of our children and communities.

Kind regards

Jill Graver

Executive Headteacher

Greenpark Academy

Registered charity: 1207103

09/04/2026

Reference for The Beacon in support of Community Development project

We have been working with The Beacon since before their rebuild. It was a new venture as a secular organisation to be working alongside a faith based group. However the clearly defined vision they have for the improved quality of life for their community has means we have been aligned with their values and focus.

They are people focussed, meaning they are listening to their clients, not involving them but by being led by them. They work to the strengths of the people around them; setting up activities that are requested and then delivered by their community. The success of this was seen in the yard sale event. This was an idea from the community on Facebook, and facilitated by the community themselves – well attended and meeting the needs of isolation and integration, whilst helping individuals tackle poverty by buying and selling inexpensive goods.

We are now based at The Beacon and can see the daily success of its position in the community. The numbers coming in and the breadth of support there are providing is excellent. It is not however, just the building, their community is referring into us friends and family who need help, showing that this is not a top led approach but a much needed resource.

We have seen many instances of individuals being supported, the volunteering in the café that moves people closer to employment, the link with the social supermarket that tackles poor health and poverty, the links with Greenpark that facilitates early intervention work with the families and of course the Pizza Project that gathers the teens into a safe place.

This is already happening at The Beacon and is the right place for this to continue.

Julie Chaplin CEO (MA, BA, PGCE, IOSH)

Hi Jon,

Alive through our Active Community team are keen to work with key local partners to engage with communities, hear their voice and co-create programmes and services which are beneficial to the community. Some good work already undertaken in North Lynn utilising a range of professionals with local community champions could be expanded further.

Thanks

Tommy

Tommy Goode

Head of Performance and Development

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