



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Monday 19th January 2026 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

Present: Councillor J Burns (Chair)
Councillor A Brown
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor D Smith (Vice Chair)
Councillor J Teixeira

Apologies: Mayor Quinn Cox
Councillor M Martin
Councillor D Page

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Daniel Schumann, Creative Director

There were no members of the public was present.

Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

- | | ACTION |
|---|--------|
| LC26 /001 <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
The above apologies were noted. | |
| LC26 /002 <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u>
None. | |
| LC26 /003 <u>Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 11th November 2025</u>
It was proposed by Councillor D Page, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 11 th November 2025 be agreed as a true record.
RESOLVED | |
| LC26 /004 <u>To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda</u>
LC25/102 Grant Policy: Full Council had approved the amendments to the grant making policy (C25/158d). | |
| LC26 /005 <u>Public Forum</u>
None | |

LC26 REPORTS

/006 See Appendix (i)

a) Creative Director and Arts Centre

Councillors had reviewed the report submitted. DS outlined that this pantomime has financially been the most successful so far, and that the run was extended. There was an 87% capacity from start to finish. We received good reviews from the public, local newspapers and the Cambridge Evening News. Locality District and County Councillor grant money paid for some families and those that would not normally be able to attend. DS reported that we are about to announce next year's panto, which is Snow White. DS reported that Social Media did help with ticket sales. DS also reported that this was the first year that we qualified for the UK Pantomime Awards, the judges were invited and attended the panto.

b) Youth Skills Manager

Councillors reviewed the report and thanked all those involved. CP reported that what we are seeing is the activity of youth skills. We are looking at taking up the slack that is available by changes in the opening times of the soft play, so that we are able to retain staff and generate different income streams.

c) Zone Manager

Opening hours have changed, now Thursday to Sunday, the figures are showing slightly up.

d) Community Wardens

Noted.

LC26 Grant Requests

/007 a) Kerala Cultural Organisation

It was proposed by Councillor T Brown seconded by Councillor J Teixeira that the amount of £2,000.00 be awarded towards costs of their activities.

RESOLVED

LC26 Grants not accepted

/008 An applicant had applied for funds towards paying the hire fees for the Clements Community Centre for 1½ hours, but the financial statement showed that the applicant had sufficient funds to cover the cost of hire, and there was no obvious reason why they should be absolved from paying the community group rate.

LC26 Grant Recipient Reports

/009 See appendix (ii)

- a) Explore Outdoor Summer and October Free School Meals
- b) Free Food in Haverhill
- c) Memories are Golden

Councillor A Brown advised he had been told the Haverhill Army Cadets were unaware of the existence of our grant scheme. The Clerk will ask the Communications Manager to promote this.

LC26 Working Parties

/010 a) Community Events Working Party:

To be adopted at following meeting

LC26 Date of Next Meeting

/011 Tuesday 3rd March 2026.

Clerk

LC26
/012

Closure

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.34pm



Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix (i)

Item 7: Manager's Reports

7a) Arts Centre Report

Box Office Update

- Notable shows have included:
- Sir Derek Jacobi – Nearly Sold Out
- Tony Stockwell 2025 – Sold Out
- Rich Hall – Sold Out
- Christmas Memories 2025 – Sold Out
- Endless Love - Sold Out
- Rock for Heroes – Sold Out
- Magic Queen - Sold Out
- Jack off the Beanstalk - 2 shows sold out

Future Sales

The following have all made a particularly healthy start:

- Wrong Jovi
- Totally Blondie
- Psychic Sally
- K Pop Party
- Elvis Tribute
- Forbidden Nights

Cinema

Notable successes within our cinema programme have included:

- Exhibition on Screen: Caravaggio
- NT Live: Fifth Step
- Cinema Live: Bat Out of Hell: The Musical

Our Dementia Screenings in partnership with The Terrific Tuesday Club continue to go well. These are being helped with funding from the warm spaces fund.

Pantomime

Beauty and the Beast was the most successful Pantomime we have done, both artistically and financially.

Sales totalled £66,991 compared to **Jack and the Beanstalk** which took £48,898.

Press review quotes included:

- “Enchanting, exhilarating and uplifting”
- “A real Christmas Cracker!”
- “Traditional, fun and full of great songs.”
- “Sharp, has lots of laughs for all the family and zips along at a terrific pace!”

We also managed to obtain £1800 in locality grants to enable over 400 school children to attend who would not otherwise be able to afford to attend.

The pantomime this year will be SNOW WHITE and will go on sale shortly.

Visual Arts Exhibitions

We are pleased to host a new exhibition by local artist Sara Marsh.

Suffolk County Council Culture Fund

Our project has started, and we have also now launched our WARM SPACES offer and started the next term of HAVERHILL YOUTH THEATRE (www.haverhillyouththeatre.com). Our new Creative and Participation Officer (Anahita Hughes) has also started planned some other projects for later in the year and we have 2 musical theatre workshops for young people planned for the school holidays.

Arts Centre Improvements

Our new carpets are complete and the nosings for the stairs will be completed as soon as the materials are delivered and the tradesmen are available. We have completed the re-purposing of the old Media Hub (now called The Beaumont Room). We have also redesigned the kitchen area and re-purposed an unused room backstage to create a third dressing room to add backstage capacity. Both the pantomime and Centre Stage have already benefitted from these improvements, and they have already resulted in freeing up The Studio (now named The Sharman Room).

Daniel Schumann

January 2026

7b Youth Skills

Staff Training and Development

Our team continues to grow in both skill and confidence, strengthening the support we offer to young people and families.

- **Vicky M** is now working 8 hours per week within the Youth Skills department. She has completed safeguarding training and parental conflict awareness and is enrolled on Advice and Guidance Level 2.
- **Callum** has successfully completed his Level 2 Youth Work qualification.
- **Rebekah** has successfully completed her Level 2 Youth Work qualification and has taking on the responsibility of covering for KC in her absence.

Investing in staff development ensures we continue to deliver high-quality mentoring, guidance, and support across our services.

'Wellbeing Hub' Youth Club – Twilight Youth Zone

The Wellbeing Hub has been rebranded as the Twilight Youth Zone, to create clear differentiation on the Stourview Wellbeing Centre. While the name has changed, it continues to offer the same safe, warm, and supportive environment where young people can have fun, learn, and build friendships.

Although attendance numbers are currently smaller, this has allowed for more intensive, targeted support. The Twilight Youth Zone remains a vital access point for young people seeking support with wellbeing, confidence, and community engagement.

Sewing Group: Combating Isolation and Building Skills

The Sewing Group continues to provide a welcoming and creative space where participants learn new skills, practise techniques, and build confidence. Sessions have a positive, friendly atmosphere, with creativity clearly shining through.

Recycling and reusing materials remains central to the project, and participants have created many unique and imaginative pieces.

Choices Programme

Overview

In its second year, the Choices Programme has continued to grow, building on the strong foundations of Year One. Now in our final quarter, referrals have increased significantly, supported by stronger collaboration with schools and community partners.

This quarter, the programme supported 35 young people, bringing the total to 75 young people to date, with referrals continuing into 2026. Support has varied, with some young people receiving partial support and others receiving full, wraparound support across multiple areas.

Key Achievements

- **Mentoring Focus:** Weekly mentoring sessions tailored to individual needs, including school-based sessions, home visits, library meetings, and walk-and-talk sessions. Careful matching of caseworkers to young people has resulted in measurable positive outcomes.
- **Trauma Therapy/Counselling:** Young people are being supported to process past trauma and develop emotional regulation strategies, reducing negative behaviours and risks of disengagement.
- **Positive Outlets:** Engagement in sports, gym sessions, yoga, sewing, mindfulness, and games clubs has provided healthy coping strategies and constructive interests.

Impact

- Increased referrals demonstrate growing confidence in the programme.
- Tailored mentoring and trauma therapy have reduced disruption in school and work settings and helped mitigate risks of disengagement and offending.
- Positive activities have fostered resilience, emotional wellbeing, and community connection.

Conclusion

Year Two has consolidated the programme's success, with clear evidence of positive outcomes for young people. Choices remains committed to flexibility, innovation, and long-term impact as it continues into 2026.

Feedback from Partners

"The work done as part of the Choices programme has really supported the young people at Castle Manor. It has provided them with a safe and trusted adult to help unpick challenges. Having someone outside of school and family widens their circle of trust and allows them to discuss issues they otherwise wouldn't."

Jack Watkinson, Designated Safeguarding/CIC and Mental Health Lead

“Choices is a fantastic project that has supported so many young people, including our students at Samuel Ward. It has given them confidence and a sense of belonging and is a real asset to our area.”

“A Year 11 female student struggling with low mood and behaviour has benefited from Choices support. She values having someone outside of home and school to talk to, and her father feels the sessions are helping. I believe this support will positively impact her GCSE results.”

“Referrals to Choices have made a hugely positive impact. Students feel supported, build coping skills, and show improved attitudes and decision-making over time.”

Castle Manor Student Services

“Choices is a vital support for our most vulnerable students and improves their chances in life.”

Samuel Ward Student Services

“The referral process is simple, the response is quick, and the outcomes are incredibly positive. Choices provides trusted support where many young people lack positive role models.”

Sian Cripps, Student Services Manager, Samuel Ward Academy

Case Study

A 13-year-old girl was referred to Choices due to persistent school misbehaviour, risk of exclusion, and emotional difficulties linked to past abuse. As a child in care, she was also struggling within her foster placement and was vulnerable to exploitation.

She chose yoga and mindfulness as part of her support plan and engaged consistently, developing grounding and emotional regulation skills. Alongside this, she formed a strong therapeutic relationship through counselling, enabling her to process trauma, build trust, and improve self-esteem.

Her bi-weekly mentor reported clear improvements in communication, attitude, and engagement. The combined support has led to increased emotional stability, improved resilience, and significantly reduced risk of exploitation and offending.

Junior Signpost Programme

Eight young people attended weekly sessions at the Arts Centre, focusing on mindfulness and creativity. Activities encouraged self-expression, patience, and connection.

In the lead-up to Christmas, participants created wreaths and baubles as gifts for someone important to them. Sharing who the gifts were for, led to meaningful discussions about family, emotions, and wellbeing.

The programme concluded with a group trip to a pantomime, providing a positive and memorable end to the sessions.

Adult Signpost Programme

Following participant feedback, the Adult Signpost programme piloted gaming-based sessions called **Game Plan**. These sessions have been highly successful, promoting social connection, teamwork, laughter, and stress relief.

Gaming provides a relaxed and inclusive environment that encourages strong non-verbal communication and collaboration. The sessions take place on Tuesdays at The Zone and have

proven particularly popular due to the level playing field they offer—especially when participants enjoy the added fun of beating staff.

Game Plan serves as the first stepping stone into our service. As participants grow in confidence, the group will naturally progress into the Adult Signpost programme, where activities will become more varied and focused on building confidence, improving job readiness, and helping clients believe in their own abilities.

Parent and Toddler Group

The Parent and Toddler Group continues to flourish, offering a safe, welcoming space for young parents to build friendships, reduce isolation, and access early parenting support.

A highlight this quarter was paediatric first aid training delivered by a local paramedic through our partnership with Haverhill Family Practice. The session was opened to relatives, resulting in approximately 20 adults and 12 toddlers attending. Parents learned to identify warning signs of dangerous conditions and practised responses to choking on a mannequin. The session was extremely well received. We hope to continue training in the future covering different topics.

Funded Counselling

Through secured grants, we are currently funding counselling for 10 **individuals** locally. Combined with our wider support offer, this is making a meaningful difference in the healing and wellbeing of young people.

Partnerships and Outreach

Haverhill Family Practice

Our partnership continues to be highly effective, with access to a treatment room one day per week. To date, we have supported 23 referrals for young people aged 12–24 with a range of support needs. This work has helped us identify gaps in existing services and has already prompted us to explore funding opportunities for an engagement hub. The proposed hub would support vulnerable young people who are not currently attending school due to anxiety, working closely with them and their parents to help rebuild confidence and support a gradual return to education.

Schools

We supported mock interviews at Castle Manor, where 10 students were interviewed by two members of our team, helping them build confidence and employability skills.

Job Centre Plus

The Job Club is now delivered directly from the Job Centre, creating a more joined-up approach. Eligible clients are mandated to attend appointments with our team, improving coordination and outcomes.

Funding Applications

We are actively seeking funding for the next financial year to ensure we can continue to offer an exciting, enticing and engaging offer to our young clients. To encourage them on to a positive pathway and to ensure they are active citizens in our community.

We have progressed to the next stage of a Suffolk Futures funding application for £10,000 per year over three years, to support young people with employment and mental health challenges.

Karen Chapple
Youth Skills Manager

7c(i) The Zone

Staffing – The Zone. Grace has moved on to full time employment, and we wish her all the best.

Training – Zone staff who needed to complete first aid did so in November. Some staff have also completed training relevant to their roles. All staff have either completed or are in the process of completing Safeguarding Training with iHasco our new training provider.

Zone Opening Hours – Looking at the sales data it has been decided to close The Zone to walkups/ad-hoc visits on a Wednesday during school term time and only open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This does not prevent party bookings being taken for Wednesdays. We will be advertising the building to hire out to groups who wish to use our facilities on the days we are closed. We are also offering a breakfast special to entice the customers in especially at the start of the weekday session. This change has facilitated alternative use of the space by Youth Skills, so income will be generated.

Parties:

Parties for November and December 2025 are same as compared with November and December 2024. We still have an outside agency who deliver laser tag, dodge ball and football parties. We will be increasing the advertising to hopefully increase bookings. Our bookings are steadily coming in for the New Year.

Numbers of **parties** booked in 2024 and 2025

	2024	2025
November	15	18
December	19	14

Soft Play: Attendees

The number of attendees seems to have improved since relaxing the height restrictions.

	2024	2025
November	1304	1366 + 532 Party attendees (This includes the children/parents)
December	788	789 + 382 Party attendees (This includes the children/parents)

Breakfast with Santa – We decided to do something new this year and closed The Zone to the public and took bookings for children to have breakfast with Santa. This went well for our first time. We will be offering it again next year making two dates available. For the price of £12 or two children for £20 we offered a Christmas themed decorated table, cereals, toast and sausage and beans with unlimited squash. Christmas colouring on the tables, goody bags, reading book and reindeer food. Father Christmas spoke to each child individually whilst having their breakfast. The session lasted 2 hours and everyone was happy.

Toddler Time - (parents attending and are responsible for their children) this session takes place during term time, only stops during the school holidays. We have lost a lot of our regulars due to their children starting school, with the expansion of the 'free' nursery places funded by government. This has been a national issue for soft play providers. Numbers are still lower than last year. Toddler Time still suits customers who prefer just having very young preschool children here and it's usually a calmer session. Good time for parents and children to make new friendships.

Pottery Shed - Were invited to The Zone in December. We offered free entry and children were able to make presents for their family and friends. Attendees were up on previous weeks.

Christmas Activities – We offered Christmas biscuit decorating and Christmas bingo in the run up to Christmas. These were free activities, but low numbers meant they were hardly accessed by our customers. Thanks go to The Zone team for the work that went into preparing the activities. We will try again next year.

SEND Sessions – Funded by Activities Unlimited take place every other Monday during term time. This ensures we only have a maximum of 25 children plus parents/carers have the opportunity to chat with others who are experiencing similar concerns but also sharing what works for them. Unlimited squash and some healthy snacks are offered to the children. This group has usually had a good uptake. Any children/parents who find our main sessions that are open to the public challenging are given information regarding our Monday SEND session. Our funding application to Activities Unlimited was submitted for April 2026 to March 2027 and we are pleased to say we were successful and the relevant paperwork and policies are being prepared for Activities Unlimited. Sessions that were postponed due to the very hot weather have been rebooked.

Funding – We continue to look for funding to enable us to offer different projects/ activities at The Zone.

7c(ii) Youth Work

Staffing – Youth Workers availability is dependent on their other job requirements and family commitments. All staff are on casual zero-hours contracts.

Training – We will be looking at putting our new youth workers through recognised youth worker training when it is available and accessible to them.

Funding – We continue to look for funding to help us deliver our youth projects and work with Youth Skills.

Pride Alliance Group – Continues at Castle Manor (term time) for an hour on a Wednesday to meet with Miss Sparks and young people to discuss matters regarding LGBTQ+ and other topics of interest. We usually have between 12 to 16 young people attend. The school is very supportive regarding any concerns or issues the young people come up against. We finished the year with a Christmas party.

Detached – We have been going out weekly and visiting areas that have been highlighted as areas of concern from various organisations and the police. We continue to work with the police, communities within Haverhill, Havebury, and other professionals to enable us to provide the best service possible to the young people.

SEND Youth Night – This session invites young people with their families/carers to access pool, table tennis, giant Jenga, giant connect four, colouring, football, basketball and also the chance for the young people and their families to meet up. We welcome younger siblings if this is the only way SEND young people can visit us, but the youngest is usually about 11. These are great evenings and thank you to Activities Unlimited for the funding. Father Christmas and his elves visited us on his sleigh in the carpark for the Christmas session. Very well received by the young people and adults (Zone staff too) and a big thank you to all who made this possible.

Wellbeing Youth Hub – Young people can play football, basketball, PlayStation 5, giant Jenga and giant connect four. Arts and crafts are available, pool, table tennis and air hockey. Some of the young people like to just sit and chill and catch up with their mates. We invite other professionals in to deliver other activities.

Youth Skills – We continue to work with the Youth Skills to support activities for young people and their families.

On Spot Van – Visits the Market Square and Tesco's car park. We are in the process at looking at redesigning and getting a quote for the vehicle wrapping, as it has been on 15 years through sun, rain and snow, and needs replacing.

Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) – We will be working with CAP and other interested agencies in the town to educate and facilitate this worthwhile project. Thanks to PC Jack Oakley for his pushing of this.

Graffiti Wall – We will be working alongside other agencies led by PC Jack Oakley to encourage legal graffiti in Haverhill. A proposed graffiti wall is being looked into. Early days but watch this space.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sandra Linnane

7d) Community Wardens

RECENT AD HOC JOBS:

- Working with events team to deliver the Town Council events: Remembrance / Halloween / Christmas market and fireworks
- Collapse of ovens followed by clearing of white good and ovens from HAC kitchen to recycle centre
- Bridges cleaned and repainted in town centre (across Stour)
- Worked with West Suffolk depots on an initiative to be visible around Haverhill doing pro-active work
- Removal of freezer room items to kitchen followed by repainting of freezer room to allow it to be new dressing room.
- Removed metal from chairs and sent for scrap (Clements)
- Descaling of taps and urinals at all sites

- Fixed hinge on oven door (Zone)
- Installed towel dispenser (Zone)
- Fit padlock to storage space (Clements)
- Clean CCTV cameras inside lens and out (Clements)
- Washed windows in/out (Clements)
- Removed horse chestnut tree in public garden and replanted at Open Space
- Cut back vegetation at various sites around Haverhill (as per public and councillor request for assistance)
- Cut back overgrowth at gate area (Open Space)
- Litter pick (Open Space)
- Refit loose metal rod (Zone)
- Fix panel in stage front (HAC)
- Refit fence as hole in fence (Open Space)
- Replace bulbs in bar (HAC)
- Drive van for collecting and returning panto props multiple times across December (HAC-Soham-HAC)
- Grit bin ID audit and check each one (around Haverhill)
- Fill 3 grit bins per public request (two not on list)
- Clear some overgrowth at Pump track
- Report fly tipping to West Suffolk
- Report abandon vehicles and working with West Suffolk on this
- Take rubbish from HAC to Clements ready for skip
- Issue with mould and clean and treat (Zone)

Regular jobs:

- Graffiti removal around town
- Trimming of all vegetation at council properties: zone/hac/splashpad/pump track/zone
- Signage at all sites/notice boards
- Plumbing work across all sites
- Clearing gutters at all sites
- Plumbing at all sites
- Helping partner agencies where required

Appendix (ii)

Explore Outdoor

October Half Term 2025 report and Summer Holiday reports:

OCTOBER HALF TERM REPORT

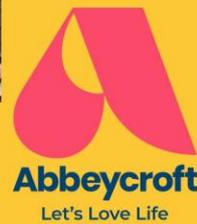
In October 2025, our programme welcomed 65 families to our Family Park Cooking sessions and gave 66 young people the chance to take part in one of our Adventure Days.



We held sessions across Babergh, East, West, and Mid Suffolk, and were thrilled to receive wonderful feedback from families in every area. Their responses highlighted the meaningful difference our activities are making in local communities. All families taking part were eligible through free school meals or other qualifying criteria.



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FAMILY PARK

COOKING

Families who attended our Family Park Cooking sessions during October half term made a delicious Spiced Noodle Soup and accompanying flat bread and took part in pumpkin carving.



EXPLORE OUTDOOR

At the start of the session my son was hiding behind me feeling unsure if to join in the games. The teachers were so kind, supportive and just wonderful my son was up at the front of the games in no time and had a fantastic day.

Our leader was amazing, kids were happy, tasty food. Parents was chatting and laughing. We had amazing day.



The children were happy to learn how to chop and cook the food. No technology which is a big issue now a day's with kids. It's encouraged the children to actually cook and eat meals from scratch



The coach was absolutely amazing. It was sooo much fun it literally felt like a warm hug of love.

We had barely any money left and during half term this was especially hard. The food parcel was pretty vital, and we had a lovely day together with a hot cooked meal.



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Attendance	Family Park Cooking				
	Spaces	Booked	Attended	% spaces booked	% booking attended
West Suffolk					
Haverhill	10	10	10	100%	100%
Mildenhall	5	5	3	100%	60%
Bury	15	15	10	100%	67%
Bury - Rural	5	5	5	100%	100%
Newmarket	5	5	5	100%	100%
Babergh and Mid					
Hadleigh	10	10	8	100%	80%
Sudbury	10	10	5	100%	50%
Stowmarket	10	10	9	100%	90%
East Suffolk					
Leiston	5	4	4	80%	100%
Felixstowe	5	5	4	100%	80%



PREVIOUS FAMILY PARK COOKING PARTICIPANTS



During our Family Park Cooking sessions over the summer holidays, families took part in a hands-on planting activity where they planted and took home a variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, runner beans, radishes and chard.

Throughout the October half-term sessions, several families who had joined us in the summer returned and proudly shared photos of their thriving plants — some even brought in homegrown vegetables for our instructors to taste! The children were thrilled to showcase the results of their hard work and enthusiasm.



Homegrown tomatoes from seeds planted at a previous FPC session



ADVENTURE DAYS



Over the October half term, we hosted six exciting Adventure Days across Babergh, West, and Mid Suffolk. Running from 8:30am to 4:30pm, each day included a nutritious lunch and snacks, giving young people the energy to enjoy activities such as archery, combat archery, axe throwing, fire lighting, bread making, swimming, climbing and more!

Was good for them to meet new children and get off tablets



Brilliant days, my son loves and wants to do more..



My son said he absolutely loved it, especially the food and making his own wrap

Attendance	Adventure Days				
	Spaces	Booked	Attended	% spaces booked	% booking attended
West Suffolk					
Bury	30	30	21	100%	70%
Haverhill	30	30	27	100%	90%
Babergh and Mid					
Hadleigh	15	15	10	100%	67%
Sudbury	15	15	8	100%	53%

A BIG THANK YOU...

EXPLORE OUTDOOR



Thank you again for the immense support from all of the funding organisations. These sessions have been funded by:

Bury Town Council, Babergh District Council, Bury Town and Rural SNEE West Suffolk Alliance, Havebury Housing, Haverhill Town Council, Hadleigh Town Council, Tesco, Rope Trust, Alison Owen BDC, Activities Unlimited and the following funds from Suffolk Community Foundation Woodward, Wider Horizons, Port of Felixstowe, COOP Cares, and Food and Drink Fund.

A big thank you to our food partners, Anglia Produce who supply fantastic food for our families and children.



Also, a big thank you to our venues for giving us the space and support to make these sessions possible! Bury Scout Hut, The Jarman Centre, East Town Park, 1st Combs Scouts, The Hive, Hadleigh Scouts, Knodishall Village Hall, Mildenhall Scouts, Felixstowe Ferry Centre, Sudbury Scouts, Bury Leisure Centre and Haverhill Leisure Centre

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SUMMER 2025 REPORT



Over the six weeks of the 2025 Summer holidays, we delivered a varied programme across Babergh, East, West, and Mid Suffolk, including Family Park Cooking, Adventure Days, and our new Wild Kitchen Adventure Days. These sessions created valuable opportunities for families and young people to connect, learn new skills, and enjoy active time outdoors together.

Over the six-week period, our sessions provided opportunities for 152 families to take part in Family Park Cooking, 50 young people to join our Wild Kitchen Activity Days, and 267 children aged 8-14 to participate in our Adventure Day sessions. All of these activities were accessed by families receiving free school meals or meeting other eligibility criteria.



100% of parents whose child attended an Adventure Day over the summer thought the session improved their child's confidence



Thank you for the sessions, it's great as a parent to know that my child is being active in the sessions and you are promoting healthy lifestyles to them.



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FAMILY PARK COOKING SESSIONS



Across 11 locations, we hosted 38 Family Park Cooking sessions during the Summer Holidays, giving families the chance to cook and eat together while learning new skills. Participants prepared a nutritious Tomato and Black Bean Soup with flatbreads, and each family took part in a hands-on planting activity, growing and taking home their own chard and runner bean pots. Alongside cooking, families enjoyed outdoor games and activities that encouraged connection, confidence, and time spent together in nature.

It gave us a free day out which was different to anything else we do. It gave 1-1 connection with me and daughter. Out in fresh air and nature cooking was lovely

This was such a fun day, gave me a good opportunity to bond with my children over a cooking activity. Learnt how to cook new meals. The food box helped me as I struggle financially so it gave us healthy family meals too. Thank you



The day was fabulous, the guide was amazing and the food pack was super helpful

We had a lovely fun day, learnt new skills, and the food pack saved us money and gave us recipes to try together.

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Attendance	Family Park Cooking				
	Spaces	Booked	Attended	% spaces booked	% booking attended
West Suffolk					
Bury	40	40	31	100%	78%
Newmarket	20	20	13	100%	65%
Mildenhall	20	20	13	100%	65%
Brandon	20	20	17	100%	85%
Haverhill	20	20	12	100%	60%
Babergh and Mid Suffolk					
Sudbury	15	15	14	100%	82%
Stowmarket	20	20	18	100%	90%
Eye	5	6	6	120%	120%
Hadleigh	10	11	11	110%	110%
Gt Cornard	10	10	9	100%	90%
East Suffolk					
Beccles	10	10	8	100%	80%



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ADVENTURE DAYS



Over the Summer Holidays, we delivered 25 Adventure Days across 7 different locations. Each session offered young people aged 8–14 the chance to take part in a wide range of exciting activities, including swimming, climbing, axe throwing, fire-lighting, bread making, archery, combat archery, and more. Running from 8:30am to 4:30pm, the sessions also provided breakfast, lunch, and healthy snacks, ensuring participants were well-fuelled for a full day of adventure and outdoor fun.

Meeting kids where they can just be them and not the young carer or extra needs is so good! They are them in a no pressure environment!



My child finds it difficult to interact socially with other children. Attending the Explore Outdoor sessions really helps during the holidays

Thank you so much for your time and effort for these children it means a lot to me as a parent!



They had fun with new people, they returned with lots to tell me!

These days provide amazing opportunities for my children to do try new activities and meet new people that they wouldn't of had this summer if these days were not available



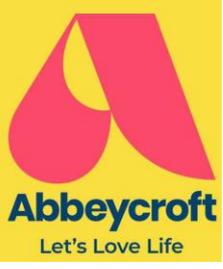
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Attendance	Adventure Days				
	Spaces	Booked	Attended	% spaces booked	% booking attended
West Suffolk					
Haverhill	60	60	42	100%	70%
Mildenhall	15	15	9	100%	60%
Bury St Edmunds	120	120	75	100%	63%
Newmarket	30	30	21	100%	70%
Babergh and Mid Suffolk					
Hadleigh	30	30	30	100%	100%
Sudbury	60	60	45	100%	75%
Stowmarket	60	60	45	100%	75%

My son came home happy and I was able to go to work with peace of mind. The instructors were friendly and made sure safety of the children was key. A massive thank you to the team.



WILD KITCHEN ADVENTURE DAYS



Newly launched in Summer 2025, our Wild Kitchen sessions offered up to 12 young people aged 8–14 the opportunity to develop cooking and outdoor skills in a supportive, hands-on environment. Participants prepared a healthy Tomato and Black Bean Soup with homemade flatbreads over a campfire, and enjoyed outdoor challenges such as archery and catapult building. We were able to hold 8 of these sessions at 4 different locations across East Suffolk. Running from 10am to 3pm, these shorter sessions were packed with activity, teamwork, and learning.



My child took a step out of her comfort zone and tried something new. She came home feeling happy she had experienced something different

Attendance	Wild Kitchen Adventure Days				
	Spaces	Booked	Attended	% spaces booked	% booking attended
East Suffolk					
Kesgrave	30	29	8	97%	27%
Felixstowe	30	30	15	100%	50%
Lowestoft	30	30	17	100%	57%
Saxmundham	30	26	10	87%	33%

A BIG THANK YOU!



We would like to say a massive thank you to all of the funding organisations for their incredible support in allowing us to continue to provide these sessions to local communities. We were able to provide these sessions with the continued funding from the Department of Education HAF fund in partnership with Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk, East Suffolk and Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils.

A big thank you to our food partner, Anglia Produce, who supplied the delicious food for our families and young people.



A special thank you to our venues for providing us with fantastic spaces and supporting us in making these sessions possible. Our venues included Sudbury Scout Hut, Bury Scout Hut, Ringsfield Village Hall, 1st Combs Scouts, Eye Scouts, The Jarman Centre, Mildenhall Scouts, Brandon Country Park, East Town Park, Hadleigh Scouts, Stevenson Centre, Kesgrave Community and Conference Centre, Felixstowe Ferry Centre, Lowestoft Scouts, Knodishall Village Hall, Bury Lesiure Centre, Haverhill Leisure Centre, Newmarket Leisure Centre and Mildenhall Leisure Centre.

We're really looking forward to continuing our programme during the October Half Term, building on the success of our summer activities and reaching even more families and young people. With each session, we aim to create welcoming spaces where participants can connect, learn new skills, and enjoy positive experiences together.



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10.b) Free Food in Haverhill

To whom it concerns,

Once again thank you to Haverhill Town Council for approving our grant for £2000 giving us 4 months rent on our New unit. Although we should have been in there this month we unfortunately have come across some more delays from building regulations and suffolk county council planning department.

Although these changes are in progress this does mean we are paying rent on essentially a giant storage unit so the grant money is very useful for helping us weather the cost of this.

I have since put a post on our Facebook page tagging the Town Council and have also approached Stylize for the magnet to be made ASAP although they are very busy alongside going through the sale of the business to Amazing Graphics.

I have attached a bank statement showing the first month's rent coming out to Stephen Oakley on the 1st of December. This is set up as a standing order so therefore regularly comes out, however we will still show proof of this coming out when necessary.

Any questions or queries please get in touch via email.

Best regards

Matt

Free Food in Haverhill

10c) Memories are Golden



Abbeycroft Leisure Centre,
Ehringshausen Way
Haverhill
CB9 0ER

Tel: 07538920731

Email: Enquiries@memoriesaregolden.co.uk

Memories are Golden (CIO) – Registered Charity Number 1195018.

Grant report – Haverhill Town Council

Grant award date: 25/03/2024

Grant amount: £1,000

Date of report: 25/11/2025

Report completed by: Lorraine Jenkins, Grants and Fundraising Co-ordinator

The grant from Haverhill Town Council was awarded to be used towards the rent at our new venue at Abbeycroft Leisure Centre, following the sale of our previous venue at Parkway School.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the landlord of the premises initially intended for the grant withdrew their offer. After months of negotiations, we secured an agreement for a space within Haverhill Leisure Centre, with updated rental costs of £576.92 per week (£30,000 annually) and a move-in date of 1st October 2024. We requested and received approval to use the grant for rent at the new premises and an extension of the grant usage period, as we were so lucky to have received 14 months rental help.

While our previous venue incurred no rent or utility costs, the relocation significantly increased our financial responsibilities. To address these, we organised fundraising events and were so lucky to secure some grants to mitigate the risk of service disruptions, which could impact the well-being of those we support.

The grant from Haverhill Town Council has been used exclusively for rental costs at the new premises, which has benefited our charity by ensuring there was no service disruption. Since being at our new premises, we have seen benefits in being in a more central location, such as increasing our public profile and having access to other areas of the leisure centre.

From all of us at Memories Are Golden, we want to thank you Haverhill Town Council for their kindness, generosity and support for our community hub and attendees.

