

## Worthing CIL Neighbourhood Fund case study: Spring into Soul - Worthing Black History Month

Spring into Soul is a Worthing-based community soul and gospel choir that meets at St. Botolph's Church in Heene and is open to singers from any (or no) religious background.

The choir was awarded just over £5,000 from the Worthing CIL Neighbourhood Fund to help pay for a month of events to celebrate Black History Month in Worthing.

*Photo: Performers at the Cellar Arts Club*



The wide variety of events included a reggae all-dayer, an African percussion session, an afrobeats night, music of black origin night across local venues AudioActive, Cellar Arts Club and The Goose.

The funding also enabled choir director Siggie Mwasote to host singing workshops at local schools, culminating in a performance by the students at AudioActive.

Local business owner and choir member Antoinette Daniel also toured local colleges to deliver a talk on how to build a successful business.

Choir member Mike Pailthorpe said: *“We’re really happy with the audience figures from the shows and think that the money we were able to spend on marketing really helped. It was great to be able to involve young people, businesses and we want to do more of that this year, as well as incorporate other art forms like spoken word.*

*“One of the best outcomes of the events was that people from different communities met each other for the first time and have started to build connections themselves too.”*

Cllr Rita Garner, Worthing’s cabinet member for culture and leisure, said: *“What a great example of the CIL Neighbourhood Fund supporting the cultural diversity of Worthing for us to delight in and enjoy. Music and food bring us together across generations.”*

To find out more about the choir, visit: [www.springintosoul.co.uk/latest-news](http://www.springintosoul.co.uk/latest-news)