

Thriving Together Grant Fund case study: Community People: On Your Doorstep

A new project is set to increase community participation in Fishersgate thanks to our Thriving Together grant fund.

The charity Community People has been awarded £12,500 from the fund to develop its On Your Doorstep project, which aims to replace traditional engagement methods like formal consultations with real conversations on doorsteps and in local spaces.

The charity's main aim is to connect people and communities and last year worked with us to understand what improvements local residents would like to see at Eastbrook Manor Community Centre in Fishersgate, via flyers, door-knocking and a drop-in event.

The popular community centre is currently undergoing a £1.2 million transformation project and will be run by Community People once building work is completed.

On Your Doorstep will build on this work with an engagement project that priorities in-person conversations through door-knocking, letter drops, street chats, and small gatherings at the community centre.

In the first year, the charity's team aims to knock on 2,000 local doors and hold four face-to-face listening events to get information that can help improve local services, health results and community unity.

Free training will also be available for local voluntary and community groups on door-knocking campaigns, 10 local residents will be recruited as volunteers and up to 15 new or expanded activities led by local people and grassroots groups will be launched.

Success will be measured by tracking the wider effects in the community, such as new friendships, shared problem-solving and collaborations, which that charity says demonstrate the deeper connections being made.

Helen Crofoot, Community People's participation lead, said: *"Door knocking is a powerful tool which meets people where they are, literally and figuratively. When you show up, listen carefully, and act on what people tell you, trust follows. Thanks to this funding, we're excited to further this work around Eastbrook Manor Community Centre."*

The project will culminate in a celebration event for the community and an online toolkit on how to run door-knocking campaigns so that more organisations and residents can benefit.

To find out more about Community People and the charity's previous work with residents in Fishersgate, please visit: <https://communitypeople.org.uk/reports-and-resources>

