

# Action Plan 2023-2025

## Update

*Three Rivers  
'a district of  
connected  
communities'*



# Stable Economy



**Support our residents through the cost of living crisis.**

Action	Update
<p>Maintaining community support group meetings with local organisations in South Oxhey, Mill End and Abbots Langley, Chorleywood &amp; Sarratt.</p>	<p>Two Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Kings Langley &amp; Leavesden Voluntary &amp; Community Group meetings held Forums with eight local organisations attending – key issues discussed included difficulty in finding volunteers and local issues with parks and open spaces.</p> <p>Two South Oxhey, Carpenders Park &amp; Oxhey Hall Voluntary &amp; Community Group Forums were held with 12 different organisations attending across the two meetings. Issues discussed included the impact of cost of living and the impact on local people and warm spaces.</p> <p>Two Voluntary &amp; Community Group Forums for Chorleywood &amp; Sarratt were held with 9 organisations attending. Key issues discussed included activities for individuals with learning disabilities, crime relating to incidences on the common and children’s mental health.</p> <p>Three Mill End and Maple Cross Voluntary &amp; Community Group Forums took place with 10 organisations attending. Key issues discussed included cost of living, warm spaces, increase in mental health conditions and incidences of homelessness.</p>
<p>Developing new community support group meeting networks in Croxley and Rickmansworth.</p>	<p>Two Rickmansworth, Croxley and Eastbury Voluntary &amp; Community Group Forums were held with 9 organisations attending. Key issues discussed included financial impact of cancelled events on local organisations and the difficulty in finding volunteers.</p>
<p>Distribution of Household Support Fund to local organisations to best support Three Rivers residents.</p>	<p>The Household Support Fund was allocated to partners operating in the district to distribute with their service users to support with food and fuel related costs.</p>



# Stable Economy



**Support our residents through the cost of living crisis.**

Action	Update
That's a Wrap - 6 week cooking project, to cook healthy meals on a budget, reduce food waste, access local services	A proportion of the Household Support Fund was spent on the Food Box project, a new project where local organisations, including Schools, can refer households they are aware of to receive a box of fresh fruit and veg, once a month for 6 months. The boxes are accompanied with recipe cards which get increasingly complex as the months progress to build cookery skills, as well as providing participants with access to a nutritionist and online support.
Produce and disseminate a leaflet containing information on support available to residents	Cost of living updated leaflet produced & shared with local organisations to improve awareness of support available to residents.
Provide advice on where residents can access support	Thrive Homes promote access to financial wellbeing support for customers through quarterly newsletters, social media and on the website. Information guides have been shared with Thrive Homes customers including general energy saving tips and guides to help you heat your home efficiently.
Welcoming hubs to be jointly branded and locations coordinated through Support Group Meetings	Welcoming Hubs now have a consistent name across the district and promote the social benefits and opportunities of the hubs.

# Stable Economy



## Promoting local employment and volunteering opportunities

Action	Update
Hold 2 local Volunteers Fair to showcase local organisations and allow residents to explore opportunities	The Three Rivers Volunteer Fair was held in December 2023 at the Henderson Hub in Abbots Langley. The event involved 12 local voluntary and Community organisations hosting a stall to advertise and promote their services and volunteer opportunities. The event was attended by 36 residents
Promotion of local volunteering opportunities through Golden Volunteer platform	
Employer Supported Volunteering linking in with skills required by VCFSE	

## Work with local businesses to upskill the local workforce

Action	Update
Identify local employment sector & skill requirement in partnership with local colleges	
Host generation event to support the growth of local retrofit and green skills sector & promote local employment opportunities	Three Rivers District Council worked with the Local Enterprise Partnership to host a sustainability careers event at Watersmeet Theatre which attracted 300 young people aged 16-18, 120 job seekers and 23 exhibitors. The event highlighted the array of career, work experience and training opportunities in the sustainability arena. Council pioneers' sustainability-focused careers fair   Jobs and careers   Three Rivers District Council
Local task group to identify businesses and develop relationships	
Identify and engage largest employers	

# Safe and Well Communities



## To empower residents to adopt healthier lifestyles

Action	Update
Host 2 community fairs to showcase local support services, providing free entertainment and activities for residents of all ages.	2 Community Fairs were held in Three Rivers, one in Leavesden Country Park and one in South Oxhey Leisure Centre. Both events had a range of different organisations including Prostate Cancer UK, Age UK, Hertfordshire Sport Partnership, Police & Fire Services, Rennie Grove Peace Hospice, NHS Teams, Citizen Advice Bureau attend and were well attended by local residents.
Coordinated approach to partnership events to ensure most benefit to attendees	The Partnership Bulletin is a fortnightly enewsletter produced by Three Rivers District Council for colleagues working at local organisations, to promote local initiatives and opportunities taking place that could be further shared by those receiving the information.
Identify and engage largest employers	Cancer awareness sessions were held in various formats to raise awareness of signs of cancer and inform residents of support available to them.

## Adopt a place based approach to address health inequalities

Action	Update
To deliver a place based project to improve access for breast cancer screening	A project was developed to improve access to breast cancer screening appointments for residents living in South Oxhey. Due to changes in the breast cancer screening service, this project ended early and resource was redirected to lung cancer prevention

# Safe and Well Communities



## Adopt a place based approach to address health inequalities

Action	Update
Deliver football sessions to improve mental health and access to local services	Man On is a sports-based mental wellbeing programme designed to support men aged 18+ with their mental health through physical activity and a conversation café. Weekly football sessions of Man On were delivered in the area of Mill End by Watford Football Club CSE Trust in partnership with Three Rivers District Council. The programme brought together a group of men who share the same interest in sport to build positive relationships and support networks.
Address wider determinants of health inequalities through outdoor activity programme to improve wellbeing and access to local services	Project to reduce isolation and improve mental wellbeing held at Dig Deep in South Oxhey. The sessions delivered outdoor activities and skills development such as; construction of bush frames, making cold frames for seedlings, carving mallets, making bird boxes and feeders and upcycling. Attendees learnt skills in a supportive environment, engage with nature to improve wellbeing, and receive information on other services available to them in the local area. There were 10 sessions held in total with predominantly male participants.
To deliver a place based project to prevent development of lung cancer	Delivered and evaluated a project to offer a health and wellbeing survey to people living in South Oxhey registered as smokers with their GP. Patients were offered referral or signposting to a range of local services in relation to answers provided in the survey. 142 people completed the survey which resulted in 256 individual support requests made. 77% of people completing the survey requested signposting or referral to support.
Evaluation of 2023-24 projects and review of data to determine 24-25 direction	See above

# Safe and Well Communities



## Maintain and grow the work of the Community Safety Partnership

Action	Update
Delivery of the 2023-24 Community Safety Action Plan.	<p>Three Rivers Community Safety Partnership has continued to work together this year to bring to the district some exciting initiatives. An “Empower and Educate” event was held for year 6 students across the district to educate them on several topics to enable them to make informed choices as they transition to secondary school. A further event was held for parents and professionals. This preventative work saw over 200 school children gaining an understanding of real-life events. The event was incredibly successful and the feedback from schools has encourage future planning for further events to encourage informed choices in younger members of the community.</p> <p>Walk with A Cop is a partnership initiative designed to address residents’ personal safety concerns in Three Rivers. The aim of the Walk with A Cop is to highlight any areas in the district where people – particularly women and girls – feel vulnerable, so that local police and partners can take tangible steps to improve feelings of safety.</p> <p>Self defence classes were held in Rickmansworth for adult and teenage females. Multiple sessions were held over a 6-week period and all sessions were fully booked with repeat clients attending.</p> <p>A one-day training course delivered by the Change Project aimed to empower female professionals to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse within the family home. 30+ female professionals attended the day which involved role play and how to talk to a perpetrator to help them make positive changes for the good of the whole family.</p> <p>Colleagues from Thrive Homes Customer Relations and Income Teams have attended online training sessions run by Herts Policy on modern slavery, human trafficking and cuckooing. This training has then been rolled out to staff within relevant teams, with top level information shared with colleagues and customers to raise awareness.</p>



# Safe and Well Communities



## Maintain and grow the work of the Community Safety Partnership

Action	Update
ASB and waste reduction initiative in multiple locations highlighted by housing providers. To include local partners and health awareness.	The CSP organised a 'Big Clean Up' event in October to encourage residents to clear out their unwanted waste instead of leaving around the buildings. The event aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour and engage residents to raise awareness about breast cancer. Large skips arrived at key locations around the district and staff were on hand to provide information and support, and all skips were filled up by the end of each day.
Evaluation of 2023-24 projects and review of data to determine 24-25 direction	See above
Review Community Safety Strategic Assessment to develop priorities for 2024 - 24 based on trends	Completed
Production and delivery of action plan to respond to new priorities	Completed



# Thriving Environment



**Lead, enable and inspire our communities to reduce their carbon emissions and proactively offset carbon emissions**

Action	Update
Promotion of green energy installation and retrofit measures to increase public awareness	<p>Three Rivers District Council have supported 20+ low income and vulnerable households exposed to fuel poverty, through a strategic public-private partnership with EON , £495,000+ of funding to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Through the Home Energy Support Service we continue to support vulnerable residents ensuring they have access to the latest grants for energy savings measure and the provision of advice.</p> <p>In partnership, Three Rivers District Council, Thrive Homes and Watford Community homes we supported the delivery of retrofit measure to 117 homes.</p> <p>Energy efficiency improvements have resulted in 83% of Thrive Homes properties having an EPC rating of C or above, an increase of 8% on the previous year.</p> <p>With our partner the National Energy Foundation A Retrofit One Stop Shop for able to pay households has been launched and over 70 free surveys have been implemented, and the project is moving to the next stage to overcome the barriers these households may incur in installing retrofit measures to their homes.</p>

# Thriving Environment



## Support our communities to adapt to extreme weather

Action	Update
Establish a Wildfire Prevention Task group to mitigate risk of wildfires and develop campaigns to increase public awareness	Wildfire Prevention Task group was developed with representatives from Herts Fire and Rescue, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Three Rivers District Council. The group reviewed areas at risk from wildfire spreading, produced communications to remind the public of risks, and worked with local farmers to reduce their risk and develop a local response to any fires.
Provide a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol to provide humanitarian accommodation and support for rough sleepers to prevent anyone becoming unwell due to severe weather conditions	Ongoing
Develop and issue advice relating to cooling the home during extreme heat	Developed and published on Three Rivers District Council website and shared through Partnership Bulletin during heatwaves.
Distribute Warm in Winter bags during winter months to support older residents in accessing local services and keeping warm	The partnership delivered over 300 “Warm in Winter” bags to residents of Three Rivers over the age of 55. The bags are produced and provided for free by the charity Small Acts of Kindness.
Develop and issue advice on how to adapt the home in preparation of floods and what to do in the event of one	Developed and uploaded to Three Rivers District Council website

# Belonging



**Celebrate and create local culture that reflects our communities**

Action	Timescale	Lead partnership / organisation
Develop and implement Craft and Culture events in Three Rivers reflective of the diverse cultures within our communities	Free “Craft and Culture” events were held throughout the year to celebrate the following; Eid, Easter, Windrush Day, Rosh Hashana, Diwali, Christmas (Portuguese and Romanian celebration). At these initiatives fact sheets were shared, and crafts relating specifically to the traditions of that celebration were led by council staff and produced with residents. Events were held in partnership with One Vision and Watford African and Caribbean Association to raise awareness of South Asian Heritage Month and Black History Month respectively. These events were free and held in community locations to improve accessibility for all residents.	

**Support in the development of sustainable community hubs**

Action	Update
Submit funding application to develop this area of work	Expression of interest was submitted to Big Lottery to develop sustainable community hubs, however this was unsuccessful. This area of work continues to develop through the Healthy Hubs and Community Group meetings to ensure an approach reflective of local need.



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