



Grant Funding Report

A-Fest 2024

Submitted to: Andover Town Council

Submitted by: A-Fest Andover CIC

A-Fest 2024 marked the festival's 10th anniversary, delivering what has been described as "the best event the team has ever done." Held on Sunday, April 28, 2024, the festival transformed Andover High Street into a vibrant celebration of youth, community, and creativity. Thanks to the generous funding from Andover Town Council, we were able to deliver an engaging and inclusive event that showcased the incredible organisations, charities, and businesses that support young people and families in Andover.

A-Fest 2024 featured a diverse range of activities, performances, and interactive zones designed to engage and inspire young people aged 5 to 18. The key areas of focus included:

- Arts & Crafts Zone – Encouraging creativity and artistic expression.
- Health & Wellbeing Zone – Promoting physical and mental wellbeing.
- Performance Zone – Featuring live music, dance, and theatrical performances.

- Identity & Self Zone – Providing a space for young people to explore personal development and future aspirations.
- Environment Zone – Showcasing local organisations working on sustainability and conservation.

Despite concerns about the weather, A-Fest 2024 attracted a record-breaking number of stallholders and attendees, demonstrating the event's continued relevance and importance to the community. Highlights included:

- Performances from Mad Melodies Children's Choir, Incolour, Can Dance Will Dance, and Test Valley Brass.
- Engagement from local charities and organisations, including Andover Trees United, Chapel Arts Studios, LifeBus, The Three Bees Project, Therapy Goats Enclosure, and Yellow Brick Road Projects.
- Local businesses and shops on the High Street reported an increase in footfall and trade, benefitting from the festival's atmosphere and visitors.

A-Fest is a fantastic testament to what Andover can achieve when people and the community come together. It highlights the wonderful range of organisations and charities in and around the town that support families and young people.

Andover Town Council's funding was instrumental in ensuring the success of A-Fest 2024. Specifically, the grant helped to cover:

- Infrastructure costs – Providing essential equipment, staging, and accessibility features.
- Marketing and outreach – Ensuring widespread awareness and engagement through digital and print campaigns.
- Workshops and activities – Enabling hands-on experiences that inspired creativity, wellbeing, and environmental awareness.
- Volunteer coordination – Supporting the invaluable team of helpers who made the event possible.

Following the success of A-Fest 2024, we are already planning for the festival's 11th year in 2025. We aim to build on this year's momentum, expanding the range of activities and increasing opportunities for young people to engage with their community. Continued support from Andover Town Council will be crucial in sustaining this positive impact.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Andover Town Council for its support, which has played a vital role in delivering this milestone event. We also wish to thank the volunteers, performers, stallholders, and community partners who contributed to A-Fest 2024's success. This festival would not be possible without the collective efforts of those dedicated to making Andover a thriving, inclusive, and vibrant place for young people and families.

We look forward to working together again for A-Fest 2025 and beyond!







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