



Andover Town Council

Item No.

To **note** the report.

Produced for: C&E Committee

By: Community and Events Officer

Date of Report: 6 November 2025

Purpose

This update provides a summary of progress following the last Community and Events Committee meeting, where Councillors reviewed four proposed youth-focused projects. At that meeting, it was agreed that two of the proposals would be taken forward to the Youth Engagement Working Group for further development.

The two selected initiatives—**Autism Aware Andover** and **Community Chef**—were identified by Councillors as offering the greatest benefit to young people in the community. These projects will now form the primary focus of the Working Group's efforts, with initial planning and stakeholder engagement underway.

Further updates will be provided as the projects progress through development and implementation stages.

General Update

A meeting was held between the Community & Events Officer and Councillor Jack Goodwin, who expressed interest in understanding the work undertaken to support young people in Andover. This discussion aimed to inform the Youth Engagement Working Group and contribute to the development of future initiatives.

Councillor Luigi Gregori has played a proactive role in advancing this work, initiating contact with key third-party organisations that Andover Town Council (ATC) is seeking to collaborate with. His support in connecting the Community & Events Officer with relevant stakeholders and facilitating information gathering has been invaluable. Sincere thanks are extended to Councillor Gregori for his continued commitment.

Efforts to raise awareness of the support ATC can offer the community have continued throughout the month. A productive meeting was held with *Kids on Track*, who were previously unaware of the funding opportunities available through ATC. The conversation also explored ideas around community cookery, which were both insightful and encouraging.

Additionally, the Community & Events Officer has been invited to join the **Live Longer Better Andover Network**, a partnership focused on supporting individuals in mid-life and beyond. Participation in this network will help identify further opportunities for ATC to contribute to community wellbeing. Updates from these meetings will be reported back to the Community & Events Committee for discussion and consideration of potential areas of support. The next network meeting is scheduled for **26th November 2025**.

Autism Aware Andover

The Community & Events Officer has initiated contact with **Koala Hub** to begin discussions around launching *Autism Aware Andover*—a proposed initiative aimed at making Andover a more inclusive and supportive environment for autistic individuals.

The proposal was met with genuine enthusiasm, and it is encouraging to note that Councillors have expressed interest in exploring the concept further and considering how it could be implemented town-wide.

The Officer is currently awaiting availability from Koala Hub to schedule an initial meeting to discuss the initiative in more detail. This meeting will help shape the scope, potential partnerships, and delivery model for the programme.

Community Chef

Councillor Luigi Gregori has made valuable progress by initiating contact with **MUNCH C.I.C**, a respected community cookery provider based in Winchester (<https://munchcic.co.uk>). Following a positive discovery call with the founders, a face-to-face meeting has now been scheduled. Mary, who leads on community cookery at MUNCH, expressed strong interest in collaborating with Andover Town Council (ATC), and it is evident that their values align closely with the vision of this initiative.

In parallel, a productive meeting was held between the Community & Events Officer, the Town Clerk, and the Community Engagement team from **Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)**. This meeting established a valuable line of communication

between ATC and the **Andover Food Partnership**, which is well-positioned to support the development and delivery of the proposed scheme.

During discussions with TVBC's Community Engagement Manager, it was noted that there is currently no existing provision similar to the proposed *Community Chef* initiative—one that is open and accessible to all residents, rather than limited to those engaged with charities or targeted services. This highlights a clear opportunity for ATC to fill a gap in local community provision.

Feedback from community conversations has been overwhelmingly positive, with several individuals and organisations expressing support for the initiative. The Andover Food Partnership has agreed to discuss the proposal at their next meeting, which will help gauge the level of community backing and inform next steps for delivery.

Recommendations

- To **note** report.