



Transition Chipping Norton

Impact Report

March 2023-April 2024



Mayor Sandra Coleman talking to young people about the new play equipment at one of our projects.

July 2023

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“This report is a truly incredible read. I do hope you and all those involved in TCN take a moment to reflect and praise yourselves for this. In such a short time these are remarkable results!”

Oxfordshire Youth

Overview

Transition Chipping Norton officially became a charity on March 16th 2023. Since then we have been working hard to grow our network, strengthening connections, enhancing wellbeing and helping empower people to engage with and improve their environment, especially in and around Chipping Norton.

We have increased our Board of Trustees, engaged many volunteers from our local community, listened to what people want for their town and fundraised to create projects to suit their needs.

Our youth branch Learn2Sustain has built on solid foundations from its start in January 2022, and we now run two regular youth groups as well as engaging young people in community events, camps and youth training.

Report by Cara Hedges April 2024



Young people at Cotswold Crescent lead an activity to decorate the old play equipment before it is decommissioned June 2023

During this year we have –

- **Offered ALL of our events for free**

Ensuring that cost is never a barrier to taking part in any of our events.
We also offer free food and drinks at each of our youth events.

- **Very gratefully received funding from**

Sovereign Housing / iWill for our Youth Social Action Project at Cotswold Crescent, with additional funding to help start up a new Youth Club in the Town Hall

Chipping Norton Town Council for equipment, volunteer expenses and hall hire for our Tuesday Youth Club

Oxfordshire Communities Foundation for managing and developing our youth projects and linking them in with other community initiatives, including setting up a Swap Shop and Repair Café

Cottsway to continue our open access youth project at Cotswold Crescent

CAG Oxfordshire to help cover our Insurance costs, and a further £200 to fund activities in Great Big Green Week 2023

SNG to help create more opportunities for mental health support in Chipping Norton.

A total of £23960

(We have secured a further 3 grants from the **Transition Network** totalling £6000 to help support projects going forwards from April 2024.)

- **Increased our volunteer network**

We have now trained and inducted:

5 Trustees (up from 3 at the start of the year)

7 regular volunteer youth support workers

9 further volunteers

2 youth volunteers

Our volunteers have clocked up over 500 hours of time supporting activities across the year



Photo: We supported two of our youth members to undertake youth leadership skills training after attending as members of the Cotswold Crescent Project

- **Provided training or training support for**

First Aid at work – 4 members

Safeguarding – 8 members

Designated Safeguarding Lead Training – 1 member

Mental Health 1st Aid – 1 member

Navigating Youth Substance use – 1 member

Wellbeing Walk leader – 3 members

Citizen Scientist – 3 members

Young Leader L2 award – 1 member

NYA Youth Support Worker Training – 1 member



Photo: 1st Aid at work –
Oxfordshire Youth

- **Strengthened connections with many local other groups and organisations including**

The Theatre Chipping Norton; The Branch; Chipping Norton Town Council; Oxfordshire Discovery College; Chipping Norton Green Gym; Chipping Norton Community Orchard; CPRE Oxfordshire; Local Environment Networks including Deddington, Barford, Sustainable Kirtlington, Sustainable Wychwood Action Group; Chadlington Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Group; St Mary's Church; Chippy

Larder; Hook Norton Community Land Trust; Evenlode Catchment Partnership; WISH; Replenish Oxfordshire; Cotswold Order of Druids; Chipping Norton Community Church; Cotswold National Landscape; Farm ED; Oxfordshire Youth; Breeze; Let's Ride; Windrush Bike Project; Transition Telford; Orinoco Scrapstore, Banbury; Kev's Bushcraft; Everyone's Evenlode; The Ramblers UK; Tellus Mater; Oxfordshire Play Association; West Oxford District Council; Wychwood Craft Café; Cottsway; Sovereign Network Group, CAG Oxfordshire, Fungus Survey Oxfordshire; Oxfordshire Doughnut Economics Collective.



Danielle Semple from Farm ED
feeding the wild birds with children
from our youth outreach project.
February 2024

"I can't believe how much more confidence my daughter has got since joining the project – it has helped me discover new places to visit locally and link up with friends too."

We worked on building a bridge of communication and engagement



Photo: Town Councillor Tash Whitmill pores over ideas put forwards by young people at Cotswold Crescent Play Area April 2023

Local teenagers campaigned for two football goals, more equipment for younger kids, better things to climb...

Survey created to canvas local residents' views on creating a footpath

Enabling the Town and District Council to hear voices and opinions from those who often don't get heard.

We continued to offer activities and support during the park refurbishment.

We supported young people with their campaign for a new skate park, and helped them campaign to create a pedestrian access between Cotswold Crescent and the new Evans Way estate.

We listened to young people asking for somewhere in the centre of town where they can hang out, somewhere that is *their space*, and we set up a Youth Club in collaboration with Town and District Councillors.

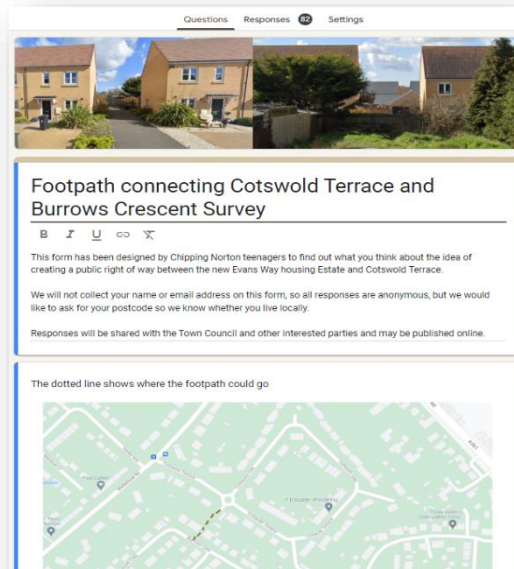



Photo above: we continued to offer support, safety advice, and pass information between the town council and young people during the refurbishment July 2023

Photo below: The Town Council supported us to help young people take ownership of the formal space where their meetings are held, and offered us use free of charge for Youth Space



- **Supported new projects to get up and running in Chipping Norton including**

Rusty Riders (a monthly bicycle clinic with guided rides)

People Planet Pint (a monthly sustainability social gathering)

Doorstep Giveaway (community based re-use and recycle events)



Above: Charlotte Livingstone from Breeze leading guided road rides with Rusty Riders, a Chippy Cycling Action Group Initiative by Chipping Norton Town Council. Feb 2024

Right: People Planet Pint Chipping Norton with TCN presenting. Dec 2023



- **Engaged with**

125 young people through our youth projects

43 people through our Fireside Group meet-ups

75 people through our Cotswolds Foragers group

Over 350 people in the wider community through our outreach activities and events

In addition we have supported connections and fostered inspiration through social media platforms including:

23 people through All Things Eco Whatsapp group, sharing campaigns and information of local and national interest

20 people through WOxEcoAct WhatsApp group and monthly meetings

47 people through our Fireside Philosophy Whatsapp discussion group

77 people through our Cotswold Foragers discussion group

18 families through the Parentcraft Mental Health Support group Whatsapp chat

We ensure ongoing contact and support is available for members of all of these groups, through constant moderating and responses to discussions.

"I'm having an awful run of luck at the moment, but the Whatsapp foraging and fireside groups keep me going – they're the only positive messages I get."

Quote from a member who is new to the area April 2023

- **Delivered sessions for young people:**

20 Open access park youth sessions, each with cooking, crafts and other activities based on their interests.

24 Tuesday evening youth sessions – brand new youth provision in response to youth requests, including a cooked evening meal

3 Farm outreach days

17 Youth Community activity sessions

13 “Walkabouts” with Town/District Councillors to help build bridges of communication

1 Youth camp

Supported 13 Remix youth sessions at Glyme Hall

A total of over 260 hours face to face time with young people.



“I’ve been willing the time away all day as I couldn’t wait for youth club as I knew I’d be doing this!”

Quote from a 16 year old attending Youth Space Nov 2023



Photos clockwise from top: Kev supervises camp cooking at Cotswold Crescent whilst Councillor Tash Whitmill engages youngsters in crafts and conversation Sept 2023

Isabel Hands demonstrates tube feeding newborn lambs at the Warriner School Farm March 2024

Teenagers turn “food waste” into pizzas at Youth Space Feb 2024



- **Delivered sessions for all ages in the community:**

22 Foraging / nature walks

15 Fireside get-togethers for adults

2 Swap Shop, Craft and Social evenings

28 Wider community events

32 associated sessions run by other groups where we supported members to attend based on interests, linking with their community and nature

6 Presentations to different interest groups about elements of our work

4 Board Meetings including our AGM in September 2023



“It is so much easier not to feel despair about the state of the world when you are surrounded by people doing positive things like this.”

Recently retired gentleman, attending for the first time



Photos clockwise from top: fireside discussion group Oct 2023
Exchanging books and toys at our Swap Shop, Crafts and Social evening March 2024
Enjoying early spring sunshine on our springs walk March 2024



- **Supported community events including**

Jubilee celebrations and Skate Park campaign

Apple Harvest Day

Apple Blossom Day

Family Fun Day

Chippy Christmas Lights Switch on

It is amazing to see the transformation here. I just can't believe the difference between now and when I came several months ago. I would never have believed there could be this level of buzz and positive energy given how bleak it felt before. Whatever it is you are doing is really working!

James Edney, Oxfordshire Youth August 2023



Photos from top: traditional wassailing at Chipping Norton Community Orchard Sept 2023; Pop up Skate Board Park at New Street May 2023; Family Fun Day to celebrate the Park Refurbishment at Cotswold Crescent August 2023

- **Created positive environmental changes**

Successful lobbying of Town Council lead to refurbishment of local park, and greater interest from young people in wildlife planting.

30 Seed bombs were made and distributed by young people in August

A further 50 were made in October at the Town Council's suggestion to be cast on the wildflower meadow at the cemetery

Upcycled 3 large suitcases of unwanted clothing

Repurposed 8 food waste tubs into worm compost bins

Rehomed 6 carboot-loads of unwanted items at our Swap Shops

Upcycled 2 car-boot loads of scrap into play equipment / marble runs / rage room experience at our youth sessions

Created and distributed 160 meals and snacks from food waste items



Above: Trustee Kim upcycles clothing left from Charlbury Swap Shop at our open access youth project August 2023



Jane Thurlow from WISH chatting to members as we get set up for Swap Shop March 2024



Right: Jo Milton from Replenish Oxfordshire shows youngsters how to make a worm compost bin from waste February 2024

Below: Mexican food night at the Town Hall November 2023



- **Promoted people's mental health and sense of wellbeing**

We have done this by helping empower people to feel able to make a difference; to help them feel connected to others who feel the same; to take action; to support and be supported; to be connected with the local environment and nature; and to link in with other local groups offering support. All of our projects are developed out of community needs and interests.

Along with our social action projects, fireside discussion group, nature walks and whatsapp support groups we also link up with other nature and environment related events on a regular basis.



Sharing eco crafts as a way of reducing pressure in social situations as conversation flows alongside.

Swap Shop March 2023 and The Theatre Supporting Parents January 2024



Photos left: 3 nature and foraging walks, and some stunning green elfin caps at Bladon Heath found with Fungal Survey Oxfordshire

Nov 2023

This year we have collaborated with The Theatre Chipping Norton and Oxfordshire Discovery College in increasing the support available to families dealing with mental health issues.

Our recent member survey confirmed that we are effective in how we are working, with the majority of respondents saying our activities over the past year have helped them to meet new people, to feel more connected with the community and they have increased their sense of wellbeing. This was a priority for us as we emerge from the devastating effects of covid.

Over 40% of members also said they have discovered new places to visit, understood more about environmental issues and felt able to make a difference due to our work.

(See Appendix 1 for more detailed data on this.)

• Supported young people

A key focus of ours was to address youth needs specifically. We want to support their long-term resilience and development by ensuring young people feel able to have a voice and feel inspired to make changes to their environment. We have done this by:

- creating opportunities for decision-makers in the community to connect with them such as Town and District Councillors
- helping them campaign for things that are important to them such as new park equipment and a new footpath
- setting up projects and activities that they have asked for, giving them greater ownership of spaces in their town
- Providing opportunities for socialising with a wider variety of people through community events, camps and training experiences
- Developing positive activities and skills for life



Photos above: Open access sessions engaging young people in positive social activities June 2023

Left: Heritage craftsman Phil Chesterton showing young people at the Community Orchard how to make a rounders bat for use at the park September 2023



Left: young people had a “board room take over” voting to watch a horror film and play table tennis in the Council Meeting Room November 2023



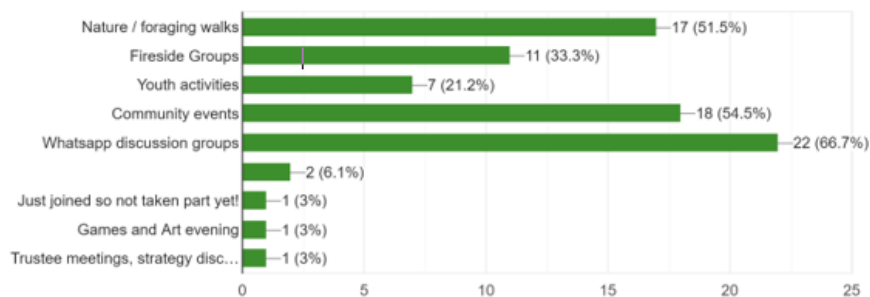
Young people who completed our youth survey reported that due to taking part in our projects they feel they have been able to make a positive difference in their town, have learned new skills and become stronger as people. It has helped them feel more connected to their community and more able to seek advice. All those surveyed said that it has inspired them to engage in more social action. This will have a long-term positive effect on their mental health and wellbeing, and also foster positive relationships within the community overall.

(See Appendix 2 for more detailed data.)

Appendix – Raw data from our member feedback surveys:

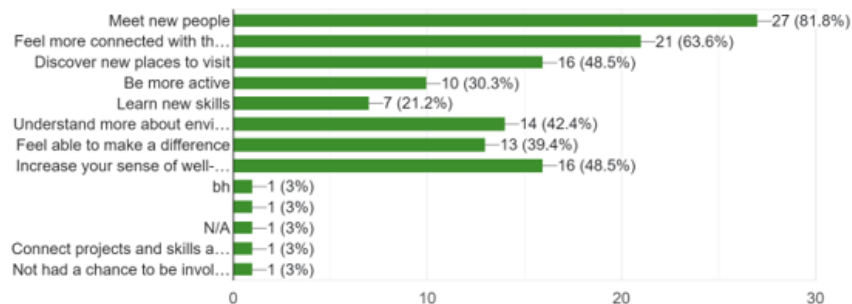
What have you taken part in so far? (Tick all that apply)

33 responses



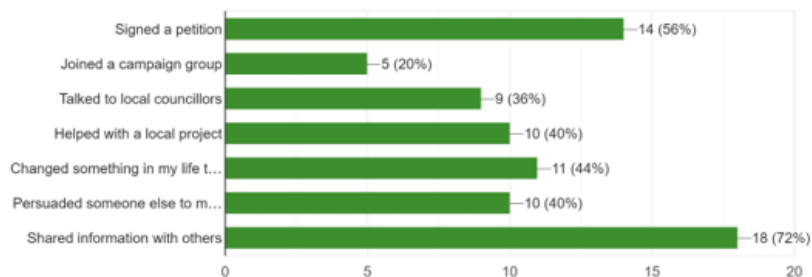
Has TCN helped you... (Tick all that apply)

33 responses



Are there any positive actions you have taken as a result of groups or connections made? We would love to hear details if you can share them.

25 responses



Youth Social Action Survey:

As a result of this project:

I feel a lot more confident in what I can do

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree or Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Ages 10 - 13			4	8
Ages 14 - 20		1	4	2

I feel I belong to my community a lot more

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree or Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Ages 10 - 13		1	1	9
Ages 14 - 20			3	3

I like living in my community a lot more

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree or Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1			3	8
			4	2

I have learnt new skills

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree or Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Ages 10 - 13			4	14
Ages 14 - 20	1		2	4

I feel I have become a stronger person

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree or Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Ages 10 - 13		2	3	9
Ages 14 - 20		1	2	3



Taking part in this project

Has made me feel like I have changed something in my local community				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree or Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1		1	3	7
			2	4

Has made me feel like I have made a positive change in my community				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree or Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Ages 10 - 13		3	1	10
Ages 14 – 20			2	5

Do you plan to continue with social action in the future?

Yes	No
9	
6	

Are you...

Aged 10 – 13 (tick)	Age 14 – 20 (tick)
11	7

Contact us

If you like what you have seen here and would like to find out more, or you have skills or resources to offer ***please get in touch...***

You can follow our activities on facebook:

[fb.com/TransitionChippingNorton](https://www.facebook.com/TransitionChippingNorton)

[fb.com/Learn2Sustain.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/Learn2Sustain.org.uk) for our youth projects

Email us on office@sustainablechippingnorton.org

Or send a message to 07517 144828 we would love to hear from you



Photo above: Nature walk through Singe Ancient Woodland May 2023

Left: Teenagers at Cotswold Crescent showing Cara how fast the new equipment goes! Sept 2023

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers, supporters and funders –
we couldn't do this without you!