#

# Rackheath’s Annual Community Meeting

#  Held at The Pavilion, Green Lane West, Rackheath, NR13 6LT

# At 7.15pm on Tuesday 21st May 2024

## Chair of Meeting: Pippa Nurse (Community Council Chair)

## Attendance: Aileen Beck Community Clerk, 5 Members of the Community Council and 10 Members of Rackheath Community.

1. **Welcome**

Pippa welcomed residents and Councillors to the meeting and advised that apologies had been received from Chris Ashman (Primary School Headteacher), Chantelle Tyrell (Social Moments)

1. **To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 14th March 2023**

The minutes of the previous Parish Meeting held on 14th March 2023 were approved as a correct record.

1. **To receive the annual report from the Chairman of the Community Council**

As a community we have seen great change over the last few years.  As a result of the recent housing developments there is section 106 & CIL money available to invest in facilities and create new leisure areas - the community council are working hard (albeit with low numbers) to ensure these funds are used within our community.

We are forging relationships with our neighbouring Parish Councils to ensure that future large scale developments such as Beeston Park and GT16 (that have a 30-40 year build plan) do not impact existing communities.  Working collectively with multiple parishes and town councils we are raising areas of concerns both at District and County Council level to address:

* education needs
* impact of large scale building on the existing communities
* traffic growth & impact
* connectivity of Rackheath to Norwich both in terms of walking and public transport, along with other settlements.
* infrastructure strain on power networks, water capacity and foul treatment

By working together on common issues, we hope to raise the profile of our concerns, better understand constraints and pursue resolutions & mitigations to ensure our communities are not impacted, but enhanced over time.

Our Pavilion is now requiring maintenance to ensure it is kept in good condition; a number of projects have been carried out and will continue to, over the coming year. The Clerk will update you on these in her report.

Our current community projects are:

* Jubilee Park has seen the addition of a large climbing frame, additional swings, seating, inclusive roundabout and toddler play equipment. We also hope to upgrade the flooring on some of the older pieces of equipment.
* Lighting in Jubilee Park and along the walkway from Salhouse Road into the park are to be implemented over the next month.
* We are currently undertaking a project to install play equipment for older children at Stracey Park and hope for delivery in autumn, we would also like to add a couple of key pieces at Jubilee Park for older children moving forward.
* Stracey Sports field will also see the addition of an outdoor gym which will be suitable for a range of ages and abilities.
* The adoption of Newman Road woods is still progressing – it has been a long journey.  The community council is taking steps to ensure boundaries are agreed and defined correctly before taking ownership.  A new pathway to connect from Norfolk Homes into the woods is currently taking place.
* We are liaising with house developers to see if the community council can take on open spaces, specifically play equipment to ensure every play area in the community can be accessed by all.
* We are undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan review – this in part is to strengthen our Neighbourhood Plan to ensure we can influence future developments.  Whilst our plan covers the whole of our parish there will be a greater focus on GT16 due to the scale of development and 30/40 year build plan.  We will be consulting the public over the coming months on policy updates and the addition of a design code.

 **Issues faced by the Council**

* We have a small number of dedicated councillors who volunteer their time and with Rackheath expanding both in terms of housing and needs, it is becoming harder to deliver projects and social events with such a limited number of people, therefore we are expanding our staffing to ensure that we can deliver day to day services and projects in parallel.  We have been running with councillor vacancies for a number of years and urge local residents to come forward and volunteer with us to help us shape our community’s future.
* We have been very fortunate that in the past graffiti has been minimal, unfortunately Jubilee Park is now being targeted.  It saddens us to see newly invested equipment vandalised.  The tone of the graffiti is often offensive and racial.  Staff & councillors are regularly attending the park to remove the graffiti.
	+ We would like to bring back the social events such as fireworks, but we need more volunteers to help us move these forward.  If you or anyone else may be interested in contributing to a social events working group, please get in touch with our Clerk.

The council would like to take this opportunity to thank Pathfinders and their volunteers for their continued work and dedication at Newman Woods, along with Salhouse Scouts and Salhouse Tree Nursery who helped the community council plant the trees around the Stracey Sports field.

We are delighted to see that both the Sole & Heel and the Green Man are being bought back to life, we hope these establishments become a key community focal point once again enable strangers to become friends.

We would like to thank the organisers of the various groups & clubs run in Rackheath for making their time available so others can come together, form friendships and share common interests.

1. **To receive reports from:**
* **Hoveton & Wroxham Medical Centre and an update on the new planned surgery:**

Fran Whymark, district and county councillor reported that he had recently visited a site in Kings Lynn which is being built in a similar manner to the one in Rackheath.

The NHS now own the land and a number of improvements have been made to the design making the building more efficient. Darwin will be building the centre, the current timeline involves contracts to be signed in June, ready to start preparing the site in July with an opening date of March 2025. October will see the modular design being put together on site, working with Cadent, Network Rail and Saffron to deliver utilities and all necessary work. Groundworks are due to start on 8th August 2024.

Hoveton and Wroxham Medical Centre will be the GP provider, expanding over time. There will be vacant rooms upon opening; in the short term other NHS services will use the rooms with a view to acute services being provided from the centre to ease burden on out-patient hospital facilities. Offices will be housed on the first floor.

Questions from the public included that the NHS refer to it as Rackheath Medical Centre but the land is based in Plumstead; query as to whether the Pharmacy would move on site along with potentially a dentist – there is no provision within this building but there may be elsewhere on the site depending upon planning permission and suchlike; whether the NHS plans to boost the medical personnel to run both sites? Yes, but down to agreement with NHS and Hoveton and Wroxham Medical Centre and the Integrated Care Board.

* **The Pavilion & Stracey Sports Park facilities**

Hire at the Pavilion has continued through 2023 and 2024. Party bookings, which slow down in winter, are popular through the spring and summer months; group bookings love to take advantage of the Bluetooth Speakers and Disco Lighting to create a party atmosphere. We also see some of our regular exercise groups use the system to create a relaxing or motivating sound to inspire users.

Storage containers installed in the rear field allow hirers to store some equipment at the pavilion which is invaluable in reducing set up and clear up times for some of our hirers.

The cost of living crisis seems to have had a definite impact on hire. We have lost one regular hirer, and another group started, lasting only 3 months as they could not attract enough attendees to sustain itself. We have been helpful in marketing classes through the village noticeboard and on facebook to help hirers increase attendance rates and offer a discount to any hirer who is a Rackheath Resident.

The start of the Community Café on a Tuesday has brought members of the community together and the CEO is able to support families who are looking for some extra help. The council have been keen to encourage this by subsidising hire rates.

The management of the facilities is overseen by the community council. The Facilities Co-ordinator undertakes the task of facility management and the clerk has delegated powers to make decisions on the day to day running and dealing with issues as they arise. The council meets its responsibilities by having in place policies and procedures to meet the legal requirements of running a public building. The Facilities Co-ordinator manages all bookings, enquiries and invoices, reporting to the clerk where necessary. Cleaning is contracted out as is the grounds maintenance. Building maintenance is still quoted based on what is required. Minor snags are addressed as and when, allowing the building to be maintained to a high standard.

The Projects and Events officer has managed and overseen several improvements to the Pavilion – A new hallway door has been installed to enable better safeguarding procedures when dual users are at the Pavilion and the Bowls Patio has had its handrail secured and paving bricks put back into place. A new sports floor is due to be installed in the function room in June, quotes are currently being researched to resolve flooding issues in the car park, and sound complaints within the building.

Returning Regular Hirers include Yoga [3 sessions per week], Dynamic Dance [2 sessions per week: 1 adult, 1 youth], Rackheath Rainbows [1 session per week] and Egyptian Dance [1 session per week]. New Regular Hirers include Little Bears Baby massage [1 session per week] and the Community Café & Cooking Workshop [1 session per week]

Several of our one off party bookings have led to further bookings for sibling/friend birthday party as hirers have been impressed with the facilities offered.

Football dominates in the autumn, winter and early spring with some months seeing a match every week. Old Catton have been our only adult team this year, playing on Sundays, and they want to continue to use Rackheath as their home ground going forward. We have had applications from 3 new adult teams and Eaton Wanderers have also expressed interest in returning next year so adult provisions definitely look to be increasing. Steamers FC have used Rackheath as their home ground for 3 of their Youth Teams with some training also being held for their Wildcats group at a Saturday morning.

Bowls – Our retuning local bowls team continue to play at the Pavilion and would like to encourage any new members to join them.

* **Cllrs Martin Murrell and Fran Whymark District and County Councillors Annual Report for 2023-24**

It would be true to say the last 12 months have been interesting. With a change of leadership at Broadland District Council (BDC) to the Rainbow Alliance you may have expected a lot of changes? The reality is that, in the main, there has been a continuation of policy. The move to the Horizon Centre, opposed by the Rainbow Alliance, has proven popular with staff and generated a huge financial saving for residents. The grants to upgrade the heating system have seen the installation of air source heat pumps, making the move even more beneficial, both financially and environmentally. The work started (when Fran was Portfolio Holder for Communities and Housing) to purchase properties for temporary accommodation has been completed. The houses are now in use and will generate long term savings for you and better accommodation for our residents who become homeless. The Rainbow Alliance have argued that we left them in a poor position financially. This is difficult to believe. Very few councils inherited reserves of over £20m, a property worth circa £4m and no borrowing, and yet they still saw fit to increase Council Tax by the maximum amount this year.

We are pleased that (after many years working with partners) the NHS have agreed that they will be starting work on Rackheath Medical Centre later this year. Work onsite will start on 8th August, with additional works to protect the gas pipeline and build the access starting prior to this. The modular build will start offsite in July, with modules being delivered in October. There is still work to ensure utilities are delivered to the site by December 2024. The plan is that the building will be completed by March 2025 and open to patients June/July 2025. The Medical Centre will be run and staffed by Hoveton and Wroxham Medical Centre. We continue to work with partners to provide additional healthcare services in this area too.

Nutrient neutrality (NN) continues impacting upon future development in our area. Delaying plans coming forward by Taylor Wimpey (TW) and many other builders. Although TW are developing their own mitigation in Rackheath/Salhouse this has caused considerable delay and additional cost, which will inevitable be passed on to house buyers. The impact of NN will likely lead to us all waiting another 2 years before we see any work undertaken on site.

BDC, working with other districts, have started selling credits to mitigate for NN through Norfolk Environmental Credits (NEC). Following a grant of £9.6m NEC will be seeking opportunities to lease or buy land, which can then be used to produce credits, so that the building industry can get moving again. However, it is likely that many builders will still struggle to get projects moving. A recent mitigation scheme gives the opportunity for householders to replace septic tanks for free. The upgrade will allow nutrient mitigation for the equivalent of 10 houses for each new septic tank.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan has passed examination phase, been adopted by BDC, South Norfolk District Council and Norwich City Council. This will ensure there is a five year land supply across the Greater Norwich area until 2038.

Norfolk County Council (NCC) are working towards a County Deal. The County Deal would give Norfolk a great opportunity to gain new powers and funding from central government. With over £600m secured over the next 30 years we will be able to make decisions in Norfolk for Norfolk. We can invest in transport, jobs and skills, adult education, housing and regeneration, focusing on the needs of local people. If NCC Councillors vote for the deal on 23rd July 2024 we will start receiving funding this year, allowing us to start projects. The election for the Directly Elected Leader (or Mayor) would take place in May 2025.

We have seen legal challenges to the safety improvements on the A47 by Dr Boswell, a green campaigner. Having lost an appeal in the High Court, he has now made an application to the Supreme Court. This is adding huge delay and cost to much needed work at North Burlingham, Honingham and Thickthorn.

At NCC we have been working to improve public transport. Locally you will have noticed improvements to the 5B, which is running later buses between Wroxham and Norwich, and the introduction this week of the City 5 from Rackheath Industrial Estate to Norwich. NCC were also pleased they could introduce 24/7 free travel for disabled bus pass holders this year. With £2 single fares and reductions to Park & Ride fares there’s never been a better reason to use the bus.

Householders can now take up to 100 litres of DIY waste to the recycling centre for free, up to four times every four weeks. Hopefully this will reduce flytipping in our area. Watch out for the forthcoming flytipping campaign from BDC.

Over £1m was spent on Parish Partnership Schemes in 2023/24. The Partnership has been so successful that NCC will make the same offer again this year 2024/24. Fran hopes that once again he can help to make projects a reality for Salhouse with the addition of his Member Grant.

A reminder that it is the second week of Foster Care Fortnight. As many of you know Fran worked as a social worker and was also a foster carer. But did you know that 5 children a week come into foster care? They all need a safe caring place to live and at NCC we want to ensure that happens. If this sounds like something you would like to explore further contact michelle.brady@norfolk.gov.uk , call 0300 0241177 to find out more and have a chat, or take a look on the website <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/fostering> . You really could change someone’s life for the better, and yours too.

Finally, we just wanted to say how pleased we were that our lobbying of NCC Highways regarding the state of the Salhouse Rd/Norwich Rd (both sides of the railway crossing) has led to £120k being spent on resurfacing.

Questions were raised around Neutrient Neutrality.

* **Norfolk Police**

No report available; informed of the meeting. Graffiti at Jubilee Park reported and will be followed up with the local community team.

* **Rackheath Primary and Bombers Pre-school**

The school continues to grow. We currently have 215 children on role. With nearly all the classes either full or almost full. We have 30 children joining us in September’s Reception class. The school’s nominal full capacity is 218 – working on 30 children per class in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and 32 per Key Stage 2 class.

Since the September 2013 extension we have had 7 classrooms and since January 2014 the Rackheath Bombers have been on site with us. The Bombers became part of the school in September 2019 when it converted from being charity run.

In June 2023 we had our most recent OFSTED report. The report found that in OFSTED’s view we potentially are an outstanding school. Under current procedures this means that we will be re-inspected to confirm if this is the case by June 2025. If you would like to read the report it can be found here <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/120843>

**Achievements**

* Our Results at testing/moderation points (end of Reception, Year 1 phonics, end of KS1 and end of KS2) have been consistently above national average for the last 8 years of testing.
* At Key Stage 2 in 2023 - 59% of children reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths nationally. Our result was 81%
* 88% of the children reached expected in maths, 91% in reading, 81% in writing and 91% in GPS. All these figures were above national figures too.
* We were 1 of 81 schools in Norfolk to have results above national in 2022 and we were 1 of 45 Norfolk schools to be above national in 2019 and 2022. This puts us in the top 10% of schools for KS2 SATS in Norfolk.
* Our children have lots of opportunities to contribute to school life. The current parent survey is showing very positive results.
* We believe in creating exciting learning opportunities such as residential trips, visits and visitors as well as special curriculum days and weeks.
* Parents are actively involved in school life, Our Friends are very active and parent surveys are very positive. In our most recent survey 100% of parents would recommend the school.
* We have lots of extra-curricular clubs and we have achieved good sporting success.

**Moving Forward**

* The amount of building in Rackheath is already having an impact and this will only become more of an issue as more houses are built. We know there are plans to build other schools in or around Rackheath but until these are built we will increasingly not be able to offer places to all children living in Rackheath. There is no option to increase our capacity due to a lack of space. Any new schools will not be linked to us as any new school has to be an academy.
* Cuts to funding remain a concern but we are managing better than most schools largely due to the fact we are full.
* The after effects of Covid and the current cost of living crisis has impacted on our community and has changed the way we work with children and families. Given that more families are being impacted emotionally and financially by the events of the last few years and need our support
* We also know that local demographic has changed and more families are needing are help and support. This combined with national factors mentioned above are changing the nature of our roles in school.
* Our families and community have expressed far more concerns about the levels of anti-social behaviour within Rackheath this year than in the past.
* **Rackheath Village Hall Management Committee**

Rackheath Village Hall is a charitable trust and continues to operate as a useful group and function venue for the Village and surrounding communities and has been used by various significant groups because of its facilities. The sizeable stage, large hall, meeting room and kitchen facilities lend themselves to use by our regular weekly bookings and parties of a varied nature. Regular groups continue to include badminton, a range of fitness/keep fit groups, amateur dramatics, home education, young at heart, short mat bowls and Wroxham Flower Club. The Village Hall is run by a small group of trustees and volunteers who endeavour to ensure its facilities are maintained and repaired; however, it is becoming harder to continue to provide that service without “new blood” from our Community and there remain significant aspects that need to be addressed going forward - these will require planning and funding to bring to fruition. The Village Hall is still considering options for its future that will best serve its loyal user groups and hopes to gain funding for the ongoing development. There are a variety of complexities and elements that have to be weighed as we move forward, not least the benefits that accrue from our charitable status, which allows our rates to some of the lowest in the locality and provide more favourable rates to Rackheath residents. Rackheath Village Hall is identified in the Neighbourhood Plan as a `Community Asset` and the Committee will continue dialogue with the Community Council about how that can be effectively utilised within the broader plans for the Village infrastructure development.

**Hall Improvement**

As mentioned in last year’s ACM submission, the Hall’s upkeep is a priority that takes time, effort and significant expenditure. During the year, we achieved the redecoration of the main hall and installed electronically-controlled thermal blinds on the upper windows at a cost of £13K (this funding made available during COVID). Additionally, the kitchen has been redecorated by Committee members and new cupboard doors installed, which make it brighter. Work still needs to go ahead elsewhere in the Hall and some protective measures need to be put in place to help protect the painted surfaces etc. I previously mentioned that we were progressing plans for an extension to the Hall to provide better storage, reworked kitchen and toilets that meet current requirements. The plan was produced last year, but submission has been delayed due to a number of points that have to be addressed – original hall plan, original utilities plan, fire & safety planning and wider discussions on funding. On a more focused aspect, irregular users sometimes report the cleanliness of the Hall – we only have provision for a cleaner once a week and rely on our users to leave the Hall in a clean condition on departure. We do try to ensure the terms and conditions of use are comprehensive and regularly updated.

**Areas Of Concern**

The RVH Committee continues to face a number of issues and concerns that impact the well-running of the Hall and the provision of the facilities it provides:

* **Increasing Longevity of Committee Members**. As identified to this forum over the past 2 years, this situation is critical - my fellow trustees and volunteers are at the point where age and ill-health sometimes preclude their continued involvement. We would benefit from an influx of new members who recognise the importance of the facilities the Hall provides for its users and how it should and can be used. (I’d restress that a social club/pub are not on the agenda and I’m relieved to see the “Sole & Heel” being revitalised!) I shall continue to put messages on the Community webpage but, unless we get some respite from additional willing volunteers, we will come to a point where RVH can no longer function – this will be the case irrespective of how the management structure of the Hall is cast.
* **Structure & General Fabric**. We know it would be beneficial to employ a volunteer caretaker to help to cover small problems that can arise, but we have yet to identify a suitable person. Presently, I rely on one of our members to maintain the grounds and keep an eye on problems as they arise. On a more significant note, having been concerned about Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC), we worked hard to find the plans for the Hall – it having been built in its present guise in 1974. Having done so, it looks as though we may be in the clear. However, we feel we need to get a general structural survey carried out on the whole building before any other major works are undertaken. Positively, we managed to inspect the roof externally using a drone and that appears to be sound apart from some minor work on gable ends.
* **Energy Supply**. We continue to be reliant on gas for heating and electrical supply from the grid without any offset. Without major work, the Hall does not lend itself to the installation of solar panels to help offset the energy running costs.
* **Security & Damage**. Security and damage are always a concern. Thankfully, we seem to have experienced fewer problems this year. We recognise there is a fine balance to be struck when surveillance systems are used.
* **Respect For Property & Users**. As mentioned in my last submission, the Village Hall and its grounds are private property. Members of the Community are asked to continue to respect those who have booked the Hall and acknowledge that the rights of our hirers extend to the grounds as well as the Hall itself.

**Summary**

Notwithstanding a number of improvements, there has been little overall change in the status of the Village Hall from last year. It has an ongoing role to play in village life and amenities, as demonstrated by a wide range of hirers and it needs to be considered within Community plans, but to bring this to fruition, it would benefit strongly from more community voluntary support to enable the best management of its maintenance and development. My Committee work to progress and solve issues to ensure the Hall remains viable, but are not getting any younger!

* **Bowls Club**

The club has been running for over 70 years and has to employ contractors to maintain the bowling green to keep it reasonably tidy and suitable for play at a cost of around £5,000 a year. 3 clubs currently use the green. Unfortunately clubs are closing, due to the ongoing costs and being unable to attract younger members. New members are welcome, although it is a struggle to find them, as it is a good way to keep fit and active, especially in the summer months during the good weather. There is no website, however contact can be made through the parish council.

A question was raised about funding from the parish council and it was confirmed that it was working with the bowls club and negotiating fees and support as best it could taking into account the number of members and ensuring that the facility is there for the village and surrounding areas.

* **Newman Road Woods and Rackheath Pathfinders**

Ivan Barnard provided the meeting with a presentation of progress at site 6, also known as Newman Road woods, which is in the process of being transferred to Rackheath Community Council as it is currently in the ownership of Broadland District Council.

The working group, containing a mix of ages, continues to meet every Saturday morning and progress is being made to rejuvenate the site and uncover additional heritage features and uncover more about its history.

The 467th Bomb Group, USAAF was stationed at RAF Rackheath from March 1944 to July 1945. They nicknamed themselves the Rackheath Aggies, flew B-24 Liberator ‘Heavy’ bombers with the best overall accuracy in Eighth Air Force. 241 personnel lost their lives while serving at Rackheath and were one of the lowest casualty rates for a bomb group with 46 aircraft lost flying from Rackheath.

Ecological work including dangerous tree felling, scrub clearance, hedgerow and tree planting, bat & bird boxes and an Ecological Management Plan is being undertaken.

Six Information panels on the History and Ecology of Site 6 were commissioned by Broadland District Council with installation Supervised by Norfolk County Council September 2020. Nine waymarker posts were installed in December 2020.

The site is open to the public and anyone interested in helping out, or learning more about the site is welcome to make contact.

* **WI**

Rackheath evening WI was formed in 1981 and has recently celebrated its 43rd birthday. There are currently 38 members who meet monthly in Holy Trinity Church.

Every month there is a speaker or demonstration covering a wide range of topics. Outings and theatre trips are arranged throughout the year, including day trip Sheringham by train (involving lunch, retail therapy and a performance at Sheringham Little Theatre), monthly walks, lunches and afternoon teas.

The May meeting is a Quiz and Chips evening with other Wis being invited; this year there are 66 people attending with fish and chips from Jason’s.

With so many WIs closing in the local area they try to advertise in local magazines, such as Salhouse Saga, Wroxham the new bridge magazine and the Village Book. Unfortunately, due to the demise of the Rackheath Life magazine (a WI initiative) it is increasingly difficult to advertise in Rackheath so they depend solely on word of mouth.

Frances Pointer, President

* **Young at Heart**

Young at Heart has been running about 6 years, it having been created by an idea of Broadland District Council to get retired people together into a community environment to play games, such as short mat bowls, curling, snooker and darts along with coffee, tea and chat with a meal out at Christmas.

Membership is by word of mouth, with posters being put up around the village and new members are always welcome – Rackheath Village Hall on Tuesdays between 10am and 12noon.

Dave Berry

* **Social Moments**

Social Moments Enterprise was registered as a charity on October 6th, 2023, with the mission to support and connect our community. As a resident of Rackheath, a parent of children at Rackheath Primary, and a former manager for the homelessness charity Hopestead, I, Chantelle Tyrrell, founded Social Moments to address the needs of our community through various services and partnerships.

Key Achievements and Initiatives:

1. Cooking Workshops:

   - Launched three months ago, these workshops have brought together numerous children and families from surrounding areas!

   - Key outcomes include providing quality time for family bonds, teaching children essential cooking skills, and ensuring they leave with a nutritious meal and a sense of pride.

   - To date, we have supported 31 children through these workshops and we're reaching maximum capacity at every workshop.

2. Pop-Up Community Cafe:

   - Running for the past three months, the cafe has grown in popularity, thanks to the Parish Council's support with reduced hire costs.

   - We have introduced a weekly Stay and Play session, providing a free drink and pastry for parents and a range of role-play toys for children.

   - The Stay and Play sessions promote child development and social interaction, attracting families from areas like Coltishall, Heartsease, Hellesdon, Reepham, and Wroxham, alongside many from Rackheath.

We've received wonderful kind donations from all to support this group and we've started to invite our local family hub community workers along to these sessions in the hope we can develop our offering further. To date we have welcomed 16 different families, parents, carers and childminders to these sessions.

3. Community Pantry:

   - Our pop-up pantry operates on Mondays at Rackheath Primary School, Tuesdays at Rackheath Pavilion, and at Blofield Primary School.

   - These pantries offer fresh bakery items from Lidl and, occasionally, fresh fruits and vegetables from Waitrose, supporting families with essential food supplies.

4. Community Activities:

   - Our community cafe has hosted activities like rock painting and crafting, which have been well received.

   - Future plans include launching a catering trailer to serve as a work experience and mental health hub for Broadland's youth, especially those struggling with school attendance or in care.

5. Mobile Food Hub:

   - Soon to be launched, this initiative will take essential food, pet supplies, and toiletries directly to various communities in Broadland, removing barriers to access affordable food.

6. Household Support:

   - We have supported over 34 households in Rackheath with one-off £50 vouchers for food or utility payments through the Household Support Fund and plan to continue this support next year.

Future Plans:

We are continuously listening to our community to understand their needs. This summer, we plan to introduce new activities and enhance our financial knowledge and training programs,

Call to Action:

We are immensely grateful to the Parish Council for allowing us to utilise the pavilion on Tuesdays. However, the growing demand for our services highlights the urgent need for a permanent fixture where we can host activities daily. Our cooking workshops and Stay and Play groups are nearing full capacity, and we are close to the point of having to turn people away. Securing a permanent space is essential for us to continue meeting the needs of our community. And we're very excited to grow our offering.

We appreciate the continued support of the Rackheath Parish Council and all residents in the area for their continued support.  Its the wonderful community spirit that makes Rackheath such a wonderful place to live. Together, we are ensuring that every child, every heart, and every dream in our community has the opportunity to flourish.

Chantelle Tyrrell  CEO, Social Moments

1. **To discuss volunteering opportunities in Rackheath**

The view of the room was that all organisations see a continual need to recruit, so ideally the community can work together and share ideas to encourage others to join. Leaflets/adverts can be placed in the community noticeboards by the Post Office, on Salhouse Road and at the Pavilion.

1. **Residents Questions/comments**
* Query whether the bus route could be diverted to go along Vera Road – the problems with car parking along the road could cause issues for the buses however the route is likely to be connected to the medical centre when it is up and running so the operators will plant he route accordingly
* Comments about the amount of rubbish outside the shops on Vera Road being pushed over walls into private properties and not placed in bins
* Young people roller skating in the middle of the road, in daylight and darkness due to a lack of facilities – comment made that the youth club folded due to a lack of funding and volunteers
* CCTV to cover the play equipment in Jubilee Park
* Query raised about how to better advertise community events – use of the community facebook page and noticeboards
* Hedge and grass cutting along Green Lane West – the pavilion site is maintained, with Highways and private owners being responsible for the remainder if the road.

Meeting closed 21.20

21 May 2024