

CIC 34 Community Interest Company Report for Northaw Transition CIC Company Number 07791387

Continuation sheet

PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

Northaw Transition CIC's major project is Northaw Community Orchard. This is a public space, owned by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, leased to Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council and sub-let by them to Northaw Transition CIC to manage. The orchard has **benefited the local community by** giving them the opportunity to improve their health and wellbeing and increase their knowledge of conservation and fruit production. It has created a community spirit around the orchard and brings residents and local groups together. Some of the ways we have involved the community are listed below:

Activities

1. The orchard was created on two fields which were previously inaccessible to the public, one of which is a County Wildlife Site. Pedestrian access is now available to the community 24/7, paths have been created and picnic tables and benches provided. Interpretation boards give information about the site and the wildlife found there.
2. Volunteers from within the community, and also from businesses outside the community, helped to plant 750 hedging plants and assisted in other tasks such as weeding, clearance, hay raking and bulb planting.
3. Over the summer, volunteers watered the trees weekly from May to September
4. We also held monthly volunteer work parties

We have joined with other community groups in activities at the orchard in particular the 1st Northaw Scouts who adjoin the site and Friends of Northaw Great Wood. We are able to use the facilities of the Scout site in exchange for mowing their lawn with our tractor.

Events

We held 3 free events in the orchard during the year which were well attended by the local community. In January we held a traditional Wassail which was particularly popular with children. A Family Picnic Day in May included children's activities, refreshments, guided walks and stalls from local small social enterprises, businesses and volunteers. In October we held an Apple Day, with various stands, children's activities and also apple displays and tasting. In May and November we held free pruning workshops. We also supported the local Village Day with a joint stand with Friends of Northaw Great Wood promoting interest in trees.

Supporting small local businesses and crafts

As a public space the orchard is a resource which has been used by small local businesses especially for educational purposes. For example:

- A beekeeper ran a 1-day workshop on Natural Beekeeping in the orchard.
- Sensory Solutions CIC held several educational workshops for community groups documenting plant diversity and medicinal herbs that are growing in the orchard.
- A local Yoga instructor held classes in our yurt
- A local business was paid to install a bench and to carry out various tasks in the orchard
- A local business who sponsored the hedging plants, participated in planting and used this activity as an example of their Corporate Social Responsibility
- At our Apple Day we hosted various local businesses involving Shiatsu Massage, Yoga Meditation, Palmistry, Art and Clay Workshops with a local artist and a Photo Booth provided by a professional photographer from Northaw.

PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Our stakeholders in this period were: Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (the landowners), Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council (our landlords), local residents including those whose houses back onto the site, other community groups, local small businesses and social enterprises and volunteers.

We have **consulted our stakeholders** in the following way:

1. We report to our landlords Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council to appraise them of our progress and have acted upon their feedback and entered into discussions with them around improving physical access to one of the fields
2. Feedback and suggestions were obtained from attendees at our events, from local residents, and from volunteers. For example, we sought advice as to how we might improve access to one of the fields from a disabled resident. We also provided contact details directly to residents adjacent to the field
3. We discussed how the orchard might be used by Northaw School
4. We have a dedicated website which includes an opportunity to contact us with comments and suggestions
5. We provided a full page article in each edition of the parish magazine, 'Update' with news of progress in the orchard and contact details
6. We regularly contacted people interested in the orchard through an active email contacts list of 60+ people. We received feedback and suggestions. We also set up a Facebook page for the orchard.
7. We leafleted the whole village to publicise events and provided contact details.