



burlington
BAPTIST CHURCH

INTRODUCING THE BURLINGTON COMMUNITY HUB

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The story behind the

BURLINGTON HUB



What is a community hub?

It is a multipurpose centre providing high quality, cost effective and flexible/agile services locally involving the local community and partnerships. See the MyCommunity Organisation footer link¹ for more information.

What is the vision?

As a church community we seek to **see lives changed** for the better, **people able to interact more effectively** and **live move meaningfully**.

Our Community Hub seeks to see the local Gipping community around Burlington (and wider) **truly transformed** and **people restored**. We long for our community to **thrive spiritually, physically and emotionally** and **have hope** once again, as intended by the early 19th Century creators of the area.

The Hub will host **existing** programmes and **co-create/co-develop new** services with the community. not imposing but seeking joint working to serve the real needs. Events/activities will be inclusive and open to all.

Many activities have been run over the years and these have identified as well as reinforced **our awareness of needs** in the area.

Independent research carried out by the Cre@te Research Centre for Ipswich Borough Council² has **reinforced** these and **identified other needs**.

While our initial focus is on working with people in the local area, we are aware that similar needs exist elsewhere in the town. Hence, several projects will also seek to serve people outside the Gipping community.

The church is aiming to make the Community Hub **self-sustaining** and not a burden on church finances.

¹ <https://mycommunity.org.uk/what-are-community-hubs>

² <https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/www.ipswich.gov.uk/files/PCD05.pdf>

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING?

We are seeking to co-develop new projects with organisations in and around the local area to meet local needs. Through our current programmes and partnerships these have been identified as:

- **Individual health** - the local GP Practice have identified groups who could be helped by social prescribing, by events and activities which augment the medication that they receive. The Cre@te Research Centre has highlighted high numbers of local people with a long-term limiting illness.
- **Engagement with young people, especially re: mental health** - this is not unique to the Gipping Ward or to Ipswich. In 2018 the Mental Health Foundation¹ identified 60% of young people (aged 18 to 24) feeling stressed and unable to cope.
- **Support for others** who are supporting specific communities' needs locally including partnering.

We expect additional needs to emerge e.g. educational qualifications - hence the flexible nature of the proposed Hub physical design combined with suitable agile governance.

What are some of the current activities and their impact?

- **Social prescribing activities** with the local GP Practice to help individuals improve their own health e.g. proposed brunch club for those who tend to isolate.
- **Partnership with the Active Transport Group** in Suffolk County Council which aims to get people walking and cycling, making them more active and hence reducing the adverse health impacts of a more sedentary lifestyle.
- **Duke of Edinburgh scheme** which allows young people to meet their peers from different backgrounds and form relationships in challenging, but still relatively safe, environments.
- The **provision of meeting rooms** and **rentable space for local charities** (e.g. Karibu African Women's Support) **and individuals** to serve the local community in their unique ways.

¹ <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/about-us/news/60-young-people-unable-cope-due-pressure-succeed>





WHERE ARE WE AT ON THE JOURNEY?

Current activities and partnerships are **being enhanced** ready to become part of the Community Hub and we are involving the local Ipswich International Church.

We also plan to **work with relevant charities** in the town to complement/expand the services they currently offer.

There are **discussions at various levels of maturity** with the following local groups and charities - Ipswich Community Media, Suffolk Refugee Services, Together for Ipswich. Integrated Care Board, 4YP, Karibu, Oak and Berry Coffee Shop.

To support these diverse activities, we need to **repurpose the existing Church Halls** by a combination of sympathetic internal refurbishment/modification of the listed building and a significant new two storey extension. The roof space will form a third floor.

After **favourable pre planning application assessment** by IBC we are looking to **move to a full planning application**. In parallel we will continue to develop suitable needs driven activities using existing facilities, some with support from grant funding.

Would you like to know more?

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