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Hello

Across the country, there is no shortage of energy and ideas in the places people love. What is often missing is the infrastructure that helps people connect, work together and turn those ideas into lasting change. Changing how money flows into places is a big part of that.

This autumn in Grimsby we've been focusing on the Growing Together Fund, where two grant pots backing civic action - both funded through Pride in Place – have just closed their funding rounds. The team and our partners at Key Fund have been out across the town, sitting down with people to get their applications in and supporting others to apply to be Decision Makers. We are so excited to see the breadth of ideas and ambition coming through.

In Rochdale, 40 people spent a day at Rochdale AFC's ground, the Crown Oil Arena, designing a fund for the borough. Citizens from Rochdale sat alongside foundations, investors and civil servants to work out what an entirely new fund could look like: one that backs the ambition of the borough, is led by citizens and brings people together for the common good. There was so much buzz in the room, and the breadth of expertise produced ideas that none of us could have come up with on our own.

All of this is a collective effort, with people across the country bringing their bit of the answer. We've shared more about these sessions, as well as other news from our work, below.

Thank you for being part of it.

Emily Bolton
CEO, Our Future

Honest conversations about funding in Rochdale



For Generations To Come is a movement of people who live and work in Rochdale who are coming together to shape its future. Over the past 18 months, through one-to-one chats, Let's Talk conversations and the Round Here platform, people have been sharing their hopes for the borough. The next step is a fund that backs their ambition for the long term, led by local people and bringing in the resources, skills and money to help ideas succeed.

In October, Our Future brought 40 people together at Rochdale AFC to begin designing this. People who live and work in the borough sat alongside colleagues from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and funders and investors from Access, Better Society Capital, Key Fund, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Ogden Trust, Resonance and other national foundations.

Everyone took part as an equal. Guests came in through the "Our Future sparkly curtain", which means leaving their job titles and usual ways of doing things behind. No-one knew where anyone else came from, or what they did for a living, until the day was done. This led to honest conversations about what is missing from the bigger funding picture and how a fund could help fill the gaps. Some common insights came through: **a fund that works for the long-term**, **backs early ideas**, and **helps learning grow in the community**.

Find out more about For Generations To Come

This was the first of many conversations, and there will be more chances to get involved starting with a Round Here event in December. Thank you to everyone who took part, and to Rochdale AFC for hosting.

Grimsby's Growing Together Fund is just the start

PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

The new **Growing Together Fund** is starting with a commitment of £20 million for Grimsby spread across the next 10 years, supported through Pride in Place. The Fund has started making grants for local projects and ideas, and people who live in Grimsby are making the decisions on what is supported and how money is spent. One round of “Give it a go” awards have been made and applications are in for another, along with the first set of “Strengthen and grow” grants.

The Fund is facilitated by Our Future but owned and run by people across the town, with work backed by the Greater Grimsby and Pride in Place boards, and the support of North East Lincolnshire Council. Pride in Place funding is a powerful starting point, and the Growing Together Fund is being built to attract additional money to the area in future.

Visit the Growing Together Fund website to stay up to date



To make sure that people in Grimsby can own that future investment, we are making space for a new organisation to support the ambitions of the community and be a long-term home for the town’s pioneering Growing Together Fund.

In October, a group of people from across Grimsby – many taking part for the first time – came together at Docks Beers to set the direction for the new organisation. There was a

clear call for human connection - for ***an organisation that brings everyone together in person and enables people to support each other.***

People also want funding that is simple and open to all, supported from start to finish, with governance that includes community members.

Relationships Project

It was brilliant to start the **Relationships Project** programme in Rochdale and Grimsby. The Relationships Project have been our partner and supporter since the early days.

They have developed a programme to support leaders to put relationships at the heart of their work. This first session was packed with productive conversations and grounded in the real challenges and opportunities that local leaders encounter every day.

Grimsby Home Wins network meet in London

Home Wins is a network for people with roots in Grimsby and North East Lincolnshire who want to support the area but now live further away. Among the people at a Home Wins gathering in London was DJ Bill Brewster, who plans his gigs around Grimsby Town away matches. The Home Wins network is a great opportunity to connect with the town and the amazing work underway.

If you have a connection to the area and would like to come along next time, let us know!

Get in touch with Crystal to find out more

Rochdale Home Wins network gets going

Rochdale's **Home Wins network** met for the first time in October, online, with members joining from as far as Thailand. The network connects people who have moved away from the borough but want to stay involved in its future.

Members discussed which parts of For Generations To Come they want to support, and anyone who's home for Christmas is invited to join a Town Hall tour.

Email Ben to join Home Wins or find out more

Our Future at the Rochdale v Grimsby match



As Our Future works alongside people in both towns, the Rochdale v Grimsby football match was an excellent opportunity to bring people together. There was plenty to cheer about, not only how much both places have achieved over the last few years but also the exciting four goals on the pitch!

The night ended with a very fair 2-2 scoreboard. Thank you to Rochdale AFC for hosting us in your beautiful match sponsor boxes. We look forward to the return leg in Grimsby early next year.

Dates For Your Diary

Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire

10,000 Trees for Grimsby launch event

- Thursday 26 November: Click here for more information

Rochdale

Let's Talk About…

- Our Jobs - Friday 27 November

Email ben@our-future.io for more information

Rochdale Home Wins

- Wednesday 2 December

Email ben@our-future.io for more information

Virtual Coffee

- Wednesday 2 December: Click here for more information
- Thursday 14 January: Click here to find out more information

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If you know someone who would enjoy hearing more about this work and getting involved, we'd love for you to share it with them.

Thank you for being part of this with us. We're excited for what comes next.

Onwards,
Emily.

Our Future, https://www.our-future.io/, 1st Floor, 88 Baker St, London, England W1U 6TQ, UK

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