

Appendix 1: Ways we have supported our rural communities in 2018-19

Examples are listed in the order they appear in the report.

Supporting rural businesses	We worked with Suffolk County Council to secure Defra Broadband funding to help extend broadband to more businesses in rural areas across West Suffolk.
Small business grants	We supported a number of small businesses in rural areas including a land maintenance business. More information on how we have supported local businesses by awarding small business grants can be found on page nine.
Ixworth Patient Association	We supported a rural transport scheme to help patients with transport problems access their local health centre, as well as developing a number of activities to improve health and wellbeing. More information about this initiative can be found on page 20.
The Shed, West Row	The Shed provides an area for people to come together, volunteer their time, build relationships and enjoy the company of others. The project grew in 2018-19, with work being completed to improve the appearance of the area and events were held by volunteers. Further information about the councils' role in enabling the project can be found on page 21.
War Memorial, Red Lodge	We supported a rural community with taking forward proposals to provide Red Lodge with a new war memorial. More information about this project can be found on page 21.
Home Start	The councils helped expand Home Start to rural areas including Honington, Brandon and Stanton. The service provided vital support and practical help to parents and families facing challenges. Further information about how we supported this service in 2018-19 can be found on page 21.
Hedgehogs Café, Rougham	We helped set up a community café for residents of Rougham, Rushbrooke and Bradfield St George to help combat loneliness and isolation. More information about the initiative can be found on page 22.

West Suffolk Parish Conference	We held our second West Suffolk Town and Parish Conference in October 2018. The conference gives town and parish councils the opportunity to exchange information, share experiences and grow their knowledge by hearing from expert speakers and taking part in workshops. More information about the 2018 conference can be found on page 23.
Togetherness Fayre	The councils' interns held an event to help raise awareness of loneliness and isolation; a problem particularly prevalent in our rural communities. More information about the fayre can be found on page 25.
Locality budgets	The councils' locality budget scheme supported a number of initiatives in rural communities, including opening a Multi-Use Games Area in Risby. More information about how the councils supported community project with funding can be found on page 26.
Parks	West Stow Country Park retained its Green Flag status in 2018-19, along with other parks across West Suffolk. Awards are given to parks that are safe, clean and well looked after. Further details about our parks can be found on page 27.
Neighbourhood Plans	We provided guidance and assistance to the community of Hargrave to help them develop the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2031. More details about how the councils supported communities with neighbourhood planning can be found on page 35.
Bringing empty properties back into use	We worked with the owner of a long term empty property in the village of Exning to help bring the property back into use. A case study with further details about this project can be found on page 37.
Improving standards in the private rented sector	We carried out Impact Days alongside Suffolk Fire and Rescue service across rural areas in West Suffolk, including Ixworth and Lakenheath. The officers carried out checks on safety standards in flats above commercial properties. More information on how we have been working to improve the quality of existing housing can be found on pages 36-38.