

REGIONAL COMMUNITIES HIGHLIGHTS WYRE FOREST 2015 - 2017



REGIONAL COMMUNITIES



- 1 Kidlington/North West Oxford
- 2 Swindon
- 3 Walsall
- 4 Cannock Chase
- 5 Wyre Forest
- 6 Wolverhampton
- 7 Stroud

- 8 Cheltenham and Gloucester
- 9 Cotswolds
- 10 Leamington & Warwick
- 11 Shrewsbury
- 12 Sedgley & Dudley
- 13 Forest Of Dean
- 14 Bicester

- 15 White Horse
- 16 Banbury
- 17 High Wycombe & Thame
- 18 Central Oxford
- 19 Aylesbury
- 20 South Staffs Villages



REGIONAL COMMUNITIES: WYRE FOREST HIGHLIGHTS



There are **580** colleagues and **17,260** members located in the Wyre Forest Regional Community areas, with the following trading sites; Food **5** sites, Travel **2** sites, Healthcare **3** sites, Funeral **4** homes and Post Office **2** sites.

The Society established its Regional Community programme in 2015, enabling members and colleagues to work together to support the local community and demonstrate our co-operative difference. This includes supporting local charities and volunteering together to help build strong local communities.

20 Regional Communities are now fully established across our trading area, each with a local Steering Group in place made up of local colleagues, Board members, Executive members and active local members overseen by Regional Ambassadors.

Key highlights in Wyre Forest since 2015

- Our colleagues across our Wyre Forest Regional Community Group have completed over 2,600 volunteer hours in the local community
- Colleagues and members have donated over 35,000 items to local foodbanks, providing meals to 880 families in need
- Over 2,500 young people have been engaged in the local area working with a range of educational establishments to support the development of young people. Local schools and educational establishments supported include the following;
 - Franche First School
 - St Catherines School
 - Baxter College
 - Bewdley School
- We have distributed £39,000 through community grants and carrier bag monies to 55 local good causes

If you are interested in becoming an 'active member' for your local Regional Community Group, please contact our Community Team on **01902 492235** or via email: **communityteam@midcounties.coop** to find out more





WYRE FOREST CASE STUDY

Building strong local communities in Wyre Forest

Wyre Forest colleagues and members have formed a strong partnership with local community partner Bewdley Elim Centre, a centre for elderly and dementia groups to meet. We have used local grants funds to enable a new floor to be fitted throughout the centre, and further developing volunteering opportunities for our colleagues and members to attend and get involved in activities at the centre. This activity builds on colleagues having raised over £16,000 for KEMP Hospice earlier in the year through a range of activities including a parachute jump, Santa Fun Run, Midnight Walk, car boot sales, bake sales and fancy dress events.

Other local community groups benefitting from support over the year through the provision of low level and Community Funding grants include;

- 21st Kidderminster (Brinton Park) Beavers
- Wyre Forest Nightstop and Mediation Scheme
- Stourport-on-Severn Civic Society
- Kidderminster 1st Sea Scouts KD1
- St Johns Tigers
- St Bartholomews Church, Arley Kings
- Kidderminster Lions U12's Girls
- 8th Kidderminster (St Johns) Scouts Group
- Citizens Advice Wyre Forest

Funding was provided for a variety of activities including event support, purchase of equipment, funding for trips and guest speakers at events.

KEMP Hospice

"Thanks to support like this, we're able to provide a wide range of services for local people at their time of greatest need. Funding can really make a difference to us, whether it's paying for a week's care, counselling sessions for bereaved family members or going towards a KEMP for Kids Residential Weekend to help young people with the grieving process. On behalf of the charity and all the people we've cared for this year, I'd like to say a big thank you to The Midcounties Co-operative's colleagues and customers."

Cathy Sloan, Head of Fundraising at
KEMP Hospice

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CASE STUDY



We have launched our 'Sustainable Communities' programme to help members save energy in their households and alleviate fuel poverty in the community. Our Regional Community programme, established in 2015, provides a strong foundation to mobilise existing community and school partnerships to deliver our 'Sustainable Communities' concept.

We achieved the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development in 2015 and are supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development goals along with other co-ops. With this background in sustainability, and strong links established through our 20 Regional Communities, we will deliver this programme through member and colleague education, engagement and involvement.

Highlights:

- Made contact to form a partnership with 'Welcome To The Future', a local fuel poverty group, to help deliver sustainable education sessions in schools and energy efficiency advice to the local community



OVERALL REGIONAL COMMUNITIES HIGHLIGHTS



Since establishing our Regional Community programme in 2015 we have achieved the following examples across our 20 areas.

- Delivered over **51,000** colleague volunteer hours
- **10,000** members involved in selecting local opportunities across all **20** Regional Community areas
- Raised **£372,000** for our local charity partners
- **£500,000** distributed across **770** local community groups and good causes through grants and carrier bag monies across our Regional Communities
- Members, colleagues and customers donated **166,000** products to foodbanks, providing enough meals for over **4,000** families in need
- Engaged with over **19,000** young people through a range of initiatives, working with **50** schools across our trading area
- Secured **165** press releases with a potential audience reach of **23** million

Visit our webpage to learn more about our community programme (including our Keeping It Local programme for our trading sites that are located outside of our Regional Community areas) and how to get involved. To find out more visit; www.midcounties.coop/community/regional

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OVERALL SOCIETY COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



The Society has achieved 5 stars in Business in the Community's Corporate Responsibility (CR) Index with a score of 100%



We received the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development in 2015



£11 million

Over 11 million given back to the community in the last 10 years



We have been re-accredited with the Fair Tax Mark, awarded to organisations that display a high degree of transparency in their tax affairs



234,000

Over the last decade we have delivered 234,000 volunteer hours to support local communities





The Midcounties Co-operative

REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Building Strong Local Communities