

Update

June 2024: issue 52

Beacon Commodities



Over the past 12 months Beacon Commodities have supported a number of local charities through their Suffolk Community Foundation Grant. Tommy has been to visit some of these charities to learn about the vital role they play and meet the inspiring people behind them.



Level Two Youth Project



Forge Community Youth Club

Level Two Youth Project, Felixstowe

A large quantity of Beacon's botanicals come through the Port of Felixstowe. It is the UK's biggest container Port and is only 40 miles away from their Warehouse. The Port is Chinese owned and surrounded by the offices of the largest shipping companies in the world. Unfortunately, these riches do not filter down to the local community as areas of deprivation within Felixstowe are amongst the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

The Level Two Youth Project (LTYP) promotes the welfare of young people aged 7-25 in Felixstowe. The young people they work with suffer from neglect, abuse, poverty or mental health and wellbeing challenges. As Suffolk County Council continue to cut funding of the youth project, issues for the young in an area like Felixstowe will continue to rise. Many of the children the LTYP support are severely affected by broken households and involvement in county lines.

County lines are drug networks engineered by gangs and organised criminal networks that export illegal substances from larger cities to suburban areas. The 'lines' are both the dedicated mobile phone lines and the physical geographical and transport routes that connect dealers and users. Gangs exploit children and vulnerable adults to transport and store the drugs, often using coercion and intimidation tactics as well as violence and sexual abuse to keep them in line.

The LTYP provide essential counselling and safe space for vulnerable youngsters. Beacon's grant will go towards providing vital funds for additional counselling sessions. Whilst there, Tommy heard of a shocking story told by the LTYP of suicidal 7-year-old who had the whole unthinkable event planned. Truly shocking to hear when you have children of your own.

Room 4

Another local charity, Tommy went to visit in May was Room 4 based in Haverhill. This Suffolk town is suffering dreadfully from the county lines drugs trade which has huge knock-on effects on the young. Room 4 are trying to get to these vulnerable children before the 'gangs' can.

Room 4 was set up to provide a safe place offering therapeutic interventions to young people, who have endured ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and trauma. Room 4 provides therapeutic interventions with a focus on recovery from trauma to the young people of Haverhill and the surrounding areas; bringing hope and future possibilities to those who have experienced adversity.



The start of the rally

Tractor rally

On a more light-hearted note, Beacon Commodities was one of many local sponsors for the Elmsett to Lindsey tractor rally in support of Prostrate Cancer UK and NEST Farms. Over 120 tractors took part spanning the many decades of tractor production. Tommy managed to persuade his 1948 grey Fergie to start (no mean feat) and take part. Some of the footage can be seen here (Tommy is the one with a bucket) - <https://www.facebook.com/reel/739761161234401>

Forge Community Church after school club

Tommy was invited to sit in on a session on Monday 24th June. 20 children come straight from school to enjoy a busy social scene, activities, workshops and most importantly a healthy cooked meal. The club is aimed at young people who would usually go home to an empty house after school and have to prepare their own food and eat this alone. The lucky ones are selected by the local school in Debenham and the sheer joy of seeing the young playing pool, table tennis, football whilst a large freshly cooked dinner of chicken chow mein was prepared is as wholesome sight as you could wish to see. This amazing work is funded fully by grants and local volunteers who selflessly give up their time for others.



Heading off



Tractor selfie



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