

LASTING LEGACY

HTC Big Local's most visible legacy may be Sorrell Road Park and The Hub, but its deeper impact lies in empowered residents, strong partnerships, and a more connected community. As one volunteer shared: "It gave me a lifeline. I made new friends and found confidence I never knew I had."

Ongoing collaborations with Think Active, Aspire in Arts, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and The Positive Impact Foundation mean the work will continue beyond 2025. The future of The Hub looks promising, as residents and local organisations prepare to carry forward the energy and community spirit fostered over a decade of local action.

THANKS

We would like to thank all the volunteers, staff, partner organisations and elected members who have been involved in delivering the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local. We would like to give particular mention to our core funder Local Trust and to Warwickshire and Solihull Community and Voluntary Action who have acted as our Locally Trusted Organisation throughout the programme.



Local Trust | Big Local



HILL TOP AND CALDWELL BIG LOCAL FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Launched in 2015 and funded with £1million from the National Lottery Community Fund through Local Trust, HTC Big Local was one of 150 community-led initiatives across England aimed at transforming disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Rooted in community decision-making, the programme in Hill Top and Caldwell focused on five core local priorities:

1. Community health and wellbeing
2. Pride in the local environment
3. Children and young people
4. The cost of living
5. Skills and employability



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to find out more about HTC Big Local online.

THE VISION

To create a proud, connected community with improved green spaces, empowered residents, and accessible opportunities for wellbeing, learning, and social engagement.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

(2015–2025)

1. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HTC Big Local addressed local health inequalities, isolation, and food insecurity through social events, fitness programmes, and food initiatives. The COVID-19 pandemic and cost-of-living crisis intensified these challenges, but efforts such as family outings, slow cooker workshops, and the 'Mason's Mile' walking project made lasting impacts.

Highlights

The Hub, established in 2021, became the cornerstone for these efforts, hosting weekly coffee mornings, warm hubs, health sessions, and group activities. It was repeatedly cited by residents as the programme's most impactful legacy - offering not just services, but a sense of belonging.

Think Active delivered seated exercise classes, facilitated NHS collaborations, and brought national sport initiatives to local schools.

2. PRIDE IN THE ENVIRONMENT

HTC residents consistently expressed deep care for their neighbourhood's appearance and natural spaces. The programme responded with:

- Community litter picks
- Nature walks

Collaborations with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to understand and hopefully restore local ecosystems, included community listening and information sessions, nature walks, bat walks, river clean-ups, and creating the Wembrook Explorers outdoor programme introducing children to nature.

Highlights

The transformation of Sorrell Road Park, supported by £100,000 from HTC and £150,000 from Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, delivered a revitalized play space co-designed with residents. It became a community hub for children and families.

3. SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Despite funding cuts to youth services, HTC Big Local maintained and grew youth-focused activities in the HTC area; these partnerships nurtured creativity, confidence, and mental wellbeing. Providers observed increased participation, stronger youth engagement, and community trust.

Highlights

HTC were able to commission activities which included holiday clubs, arts sessions and sports, weekly youth sessions and targeted holiday programmes in partnership with the Positive Impact Foundation, Aspire in Arts creative programmes, including murals, DJ sessions, and video projects.

4. TACKLING THE COST OF LIVING

HTC recognised financial insecurity as a barrier to engagement. Initiatives included subsidised healthy food through Ediblelinks, Family Food Bags and HAF-supported meal distribution, Helping Hands grants for struggling families and promotion of the Passport to Leisure scheme.

Highlights

Weekly advice sessions with Citizens Advice (BRANCAB) helped 481 residents to access over £500,000 in financial gains via benefit claims and debt relief. The return on investment in 2024 alone was £6.90 per £1 spent.

5. SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Empowerment through participation was central to Big Local's ethos. Dozens of residents gained confidence and skills through volunteering, planning, and delivering projects.

Highlights

Resident-led legacy: The Unity Association was formed in 2025 by volunteers and former Partnership members to sustain activities post-Big Local. Plans are underway for them to continue to be based at The Hub.