

## ACTIVE NGOs - an opportunity to strengthen the great community activity and involvement in East Brighton

**ACTIVE NGOs** is a project involving **residents, community groups and public services** across six countries, giving people the opportunity to visit each other and look at how people can really work together to make good communities.



East Brighton has many community venues, public buildings and open spaces and the main focus of the project is to ensure that these are used in a way that works for the needs of local people. The project will bring together the people who are responsible for buildings and spaces, with the wider community, it will look at what activities are happening in these buildings, look at how the community can access them and even look for funds to support residents and community groups to create new activities and projects.

Examples of some of the buildings and open space in East Brighton are:

**Bristol Estate Community Room**

**& Art Studios**

**Roundabout Children's Centre**

**Crew Club**

**East Brighton Park and café**

**Manor Gym**

**Middle Park**

**St David's Hall**

**Valley Social Centre**

**Whitehawk Hub and Library**

**Whitehawk Inn**

**Bristol Estate, Manor Farm and Whitehawk** are neighbourhoods with strong community spirit, with a great number of dedicated and passionate community champions. We hope that this project will provide fresh ideas and support for current community champions whilst bringing about a new generation of active community members in East Brighton.

“This project is about sharing experience and learning from others, with **community champions bringing back new ideas and innovative solutions** that can meet the needs and priorities of local people within East Brighton”

Tom Goodridge, East Brighton Project Coordinator

## The Starting Point

### NGO House – a space created with the community for the community

Riga City Council (Latvia) worked with the local community to create *NGO House*, a disused school transformed into a hub where local groups can make use of community space.

Community groups can book NGO House free of charge to run activities, hold classes and even just to meet for a coffee. Local groups also have free access to IT facilities and can take advantage of free training, ranging from first aid courses to social media advice drop-ins.



## Team Riga visit East Brighton



Our friends from Riga enjoying a sunny afternoon at the Bristol Estate Community Room with local residents, community groups and public services

## Partner Cities – taking inspiration from NGO House

East Brighton is one of five partner cities looking to improve the way the community buildings and open spaces meet the changing needs of local people



## Partner city visits

Over the next two years, these **community champions will have the opportunity to visit our partner cities** alongside the project team.

It is a real opportunity to visit another city where local people are working alongside public services to build stronger communities. For community champions, there will be time to visit and take part in local projects, share experiences and gain new ideas to bring back to East Brighton.

Community champions will be someone local who is involved and active within their community. The Community Champions will receive **individual guidance, support and training** before, during and after each visit. The Community Champions will be expected to remain involved with the project over the 2 year period and use their learning to try to develop existing or new projects, with the project team or other partners.

Each visit lasts four days, including travel on day one and four. **Accommodation, food, travel and caring costs are covered by the project budget.** Further support is given to each community champion through the East Brighton project team, from arranging flights, booking hotel rooms to ensuring your health and food requirements are met on the trip.

Each community champion is expected to **create a diary of their experience**, as a way to share their experience when they return to East Brighton.

## Be creative with your diaries



## The key groups and organisations in East Brighton we aim to connect with during the project

Bristol Estate Community Association (BECA)

Crew Club

East Brighton Park Café

East Brighton Parkrun

Hawks Community Cafe

The Manor Gym

Parklife

Racehill Community Orchard

Robert Lodge Project

Serendipity

St David's Hall

St Cuthman's Church

Valley Social Centre

Whitehawk Football Club

Whitehawk Hub Campus organisations

Whitehawk Inn

## What we hope to achieve through the project – the legacy for East Brighton

### Getting the most out of spaces in East Brighton

**East Brighton has a range of strong community spaces with more inclusive and community-led activity**

### Supporting current and emerging community champions

**More local residents are knowledgeable and involved in running and managing buildings and spaces**

## **Creating closer partnerships = a stronger East Brighton community**

**Local community buildings and spaces working together to:**

**Provide a full offer to residents within East Brighton**

**Raising awareness of the full offer to the whole community with strong marketing  
and publicity**

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**GET  
INVOLVED!**

Do you run activities, manage community space and support fellow residents in East Brighton?

Do you feel you would make a great East Brighton community champion?

Do you want to bring fresh ideas back to your community?

**Contact Tom to arrange a chat over a coffee or tea in East Brighton.**

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