

Bloxham Well-being Network – August 2026 Update

The Network held its third meeting on 7 August and is beginning to establish a clearer identity, purpose and direction.

Members agreed that “**Network**” better reflects our intended role of connecting residents, community groups and existing resources. There was also strong support for retaining our strapline:

“Connecting people, enabling opportunities and supporting health and well-being across Bloxham.”

Work on our mission statement reinforced an important principle: the Network does **not** intend to become another provider of services or activities. Instead, we aim to **listen, connect, coordinate and facilitate** – identifying and celebrating what already exists, making opportunities easier to access, identifying gaps and enabling organisations and residents to work together.

Our community mapping work has already highlighted the considerable range of resources available in Bloxham, but also relatively few identified connections between them and some potential gaps in provision. One proposal being developed is therefore a **Community Health and Well-being Meet and Greet**, bringing together local groups, organisations and volunteers to strengthen connections and encourage collaboration. This project we envisage will have some cost element involved and we will probably be approaching the PC in the near future with a potential funding request.

We are also exploring support from **Community First Oxfordshire**, including a possible hybrid approach combining elements of a Community Insight Profile and Community Led Plan. They may also be able to approach Cherwell District Council regarding **up to £1,000 of funding** towards a community survey, which could help us better understand residents’ views, priorities and existing community strengths.

The next stage will focus on refining our mission, developing the Meet and Greet and community survey proposals, and considering how Community First Oxfordshire might support this work. The Network is still at an early stage, but a clearer direction is now emerging. We will continue to keep the Parish Council informed as the work develops and, of course, welcome any comments or observations from councillors.

Alex Harrison

Bloxham Well-being Network