

# RECONOMICS PLUS

Case  
Study

## Braybrooke Community Nature and Fishing Club (BCNFC)

**Aim: To engage and support all sections of the community through fishing.**

### Project summary

BCNFC was set up in April 2016 following a successful and popular series of local angling events that left a number of young people who attended keen to further develop their angling skills. The ethos of BCNFC is to promote both fishing and the environment for all sections of the local community, including young people and people with disabilities.

Encouraging families to join as a whole was as a key aim of the Club. Therefore, it was formed as a community nature and fishing club that offered both fishing memberships and nature-only memberships for those not wishing to fish. Membership fees were set at affordable levels (£25 family membership for 5 people) with the ability to offer concessions to those who required some extra support.

The BCNFC works in partnership with:

- The Environment Agency, which supports habitat maintenance and improvement
- The Angling Trust, which helps to run events and has provided funding to improve the local fishing lake.
- Bracknell Town Council, which helps to put on local events and educate local people about the effect fishing has on the local wildlife.



## Impact

BCNFC has been an enormous success recruiting over 100 members, many of them as families.

The Club promotes physical and mental wellbeing by giving people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to fish and to directly engage with wildlife and the environment. It has recently introduced purpose-built swims that allow disabled access.

It has been proactive in offering tailored events that reach out to all sections of the local community and also works with local community organisations, such as support groups for people with disabilities and the Scouts to promote the benefits of fishing and being engaged in nature.

Two members recently qualified as Level 1 coaches with the club's support and have applied their skills at a number of events.

## Key learnings

- Assessing the community's needs and meeting them. This will ensure that the project attracts the help and support of local people.
- Seek the support and advice of people with experience of running a club.

## Future plans

- Next year, BCNFC aims to build on the solid foundations laid during 2016 by increasing the number and diversity of both nature and fishing events to include a junior fishing match, an after-school club partnering with a special needs school and by offering Angling Trust's 'CAST' angling skills awards. These are a progressive series of certificates that recognise a variety of skills and learning, including practical skills, recognition of fish and insect species, and care for caught fish and the habitats they live in. The award is perfect for individuals or small groups. The Club has also been given the use of a section of the river Cut to use as its second water.

## Further information

Club Secretary – Danny Williams 07957-327863 or [danee@sky.com](mailto:danee@sky.com)

[www.facebook.com/BraybrookeCommunityClub](https://www.facebook.com/BraybrookeCommunityClub)

[www.bcnfc.btck.co.uk](http://www.bcnfc.btck.co.uk)

[braybrookecommunityclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:braybrookecommunityclub@yahoo.co.uk)

## Key facts

Target audience	All sections of the local community
Setting	Urban lake set in densely populated area of Bracknell in Berkshire
Length of the project	2015-2017
Funding	Membership fees, Angling Trust, the Environment Agency, Bracknell Town Council and local fundraising events
Number of participants	400 individuals have attended organised events run by BCNFC since the club was formed in April 2016