



LYTHAM COMMUNITY COMIC CON 2026

IMPACT REPORT

Event date	Sunday 2 August 2026
Venue	Lowther Pavilion Theatre & Gardens, Lytham St Annes
Delivered by	Community Comic Con CIC
Funding received	£2,000 towards essential core costs
Estimated attendance	Approximately 3,000 visitors

Community Comic Con CIC • 100% volunteer-led • Not-for-profit • Proud to be Different



Executive Summary

Community Comic Con CIC would like to thank our funders for their £2,000 contribution towards the essential core costs of delivering Lytham Community Comic Con 2026.

Held at the Lowther Pavilion Theatre & Gardens on Sunday 2 August 2026, the event was delivered as a completely FREE community event. We estimate that approximately 3,000 people attended during the day, demonstrating the demand for accessible, inclusive and affordable community entertainment on the Fylde Coast.

Community Comic Con CIC is a 100% volunteer-led, not-for-profit Community Interest Company. Our aim is not simply to organise a Comic Con, but to use popular culture, creativity and shared interests to bring people together, support local and independent creatives, provide volunteering opportunities and reduce financial barriers to participation.

The £2,000 grant contributed towards the core costs that made the whole event possible, including venue hire, insurance, professional security and first aid provision. These are essential costs that must be met before a free event of this scale can safely open its doors.

“Absolutely loved it!! Thank you for organising and keeping it free – it’s no small feat to organise an event of this size!”

— Lucy Germaine, visitor feedback

Impact at a Glance

~3,000	139	17	£2,000
visitors	people involved in delivery	CIC committee members	Total grant money received



What the £2,000 Funding Enabled

The grant was used as enabling funding towards essential core event costs rather than one isolated attraction. By helping us meet the costs required to stage the event safely, the funding supported everything that happened around it.

- Venue and site hire at the Lowther Pavilion Theatre & Gardens
- Public and employer liability insurance
- Professional security provision
- Professional first aid provision
- Essential event infrastructure and operational requirements

This support allowed us to preserve one of the most important principles of Community Comic Con: FREE admission. Families could attend, enjoy the entertainment, take part in activities, meet characters and creatives and spend nothing if they chose to.



A busy indoor trading hall during Lytham Community Comic Con.

"It was a brilliant day!! First time I've ever been to a comic con, definitely go again."

— Pauline Bayliss, visitor feedback

Why Free Admission Matters

Commercial Comic Cons often require families to pay admission before travel, food, merchandise, photographs or other activities are considered. Our model removes that first financial barrier. This is especially important during continuing cost-of-living pressures and means that a family can experience a full community event regardless of its ability to spend.

The response from visitors showed that this mattered. One visitor specifically thanked the team for keeping the event free and said they had made a donation in the hope that future events could remain free.

A Full Day of Free Entertainment and Participation

Lytham Community Comic Con ran from 10am until 5pm and offered a broad programme designed to give visitors reasons to participate, not simply observe.

- Two live wrestling shows from Top Rope Wrestling Academy
- Live musical entertainment and DJ
- Cosplay competitions across age categories, Cosplay Dance Off and Cosplay Conga
- Guest Q&A panels hosted by the Comic Con Community Podcast
- Short horror story writing workshop
- Comic character creation and comic strip workshops
- Baby dinosaur encounters and roaming dinosaur entertainment
- Mermaid performances
- Doctor Who Dalek and Davros displays
- Official and volunteer cosplayers and prop displays
- Drawing, colouring and plastic brick building
- Family board games, Cosplay Bingo and a Comic Con Scavenger Hunt
- Zombie Shooting Range & Horror Zone walk through experience



Live wrestling and the volunteer-created Horror Zone were among the free attractions.

"Excellent event guys, the little guy loved the wrestling, everyone made him feel super special... still buzzing from yesterday!!!!"

— Marion Armer, visitor feedback

Creativity, Cosplay and Confidence

A central purpose of Community Comic Con CIC is to give local and independent creatives a platform while encouraging visitors to explore their own creativity. The event brought together actors, authors, comic creators, artists, cosplayers, prop makers, puppeteers, musicians, performers, wrestlers, photographers, independent filmmakers, podcasters, traders and small businesses.

Peter Houghton of Space Axolotl delivered character creation and comic strip workshops. Horror author Ashley Lister delivered a short horror story writing workshop. Blackpool puppeteer Louie Jones demonstrated puppetry and brought a collection of characters to life. Cosplayers and prop makers gave visitors the chance to see handmade creations up close and talk to the people behind them.



"Was the highlight so far of the year and summer. She is now wanting to do more cosplay."

— Kyle Cameron, visitor feedback

This feedback is a strong example of the event creating an outcome beyond a single enjoyable day: inspiring a young person to become more actively involved in cosplay and creative participation.

Opportunities for Children and Young People

Activities were deliberately designed to be hands-on and welcoming. Children could draw, build, write, play, meet characters, enter age-appropriate cosplay competitions and join group activities. This gave young visitors opportunities for self-expression, confidence-building and shared experiences with others who enjoy the same interests.



Cosplayers participating in the Cosplay Competition. These were the winners.



Inclusion, Belonging and Social Connection

Popular culture can be a powerful way of bringing people together. Shared interests can make it easier to start conversations, make friends and feel part of a community. Visitor feedback highlighted this social impact particularly strongly.

“My daughter had a lovely day and met some new friends... great to have a comic con so locally.”

— Diane Cowell, visitor feedback

“Had the most amazing time, so many cosplayers happy to have photos with my autistic daughter... a massive thank you to the organisers and Lowther Pavilion.”

— Suzanne Randall, visitor feedback

“Thank you so much for organising today, it's been the highlight of my son's summer so far! We were there from opening to close... Today was a really big day for him, thank you so much for giving him the space to be in his element!”

— Tanya Hanson, visitor feedback

These comments illustrate several of the outcomes we want Community Comic Con to achieve: friendship, acceptance, positive family experiences and a space where people can enjoy their interests without feeling out of place.



Cosplay, dinosaurs and family participation helped create an informal and welcoming atmosphere.

Community Participation and Volunteering

A total of 139 people were directly involved in delivering the event, including volunteers, official cosplayers, special guests, performers, activity providers and traders. Our CIC committee consists of 17 members, with planning and preparation taking place throughout the year.

Volunteers supported event planning, administration, guest management, workshops, cosplay, set-up and breakdown, visitor information, social media, photography, outreach, fundraising, board gaming and family activities.

Because Community Comic Con CIC has no paid directors and is run entirely by volunteers, the contribution of volunteer time substantially increases the value generated from grant funding. If comparable roles, appearances and activities had to be purchased commercially, the cost of delivering the event would be significantly higher.



Professional first aid provision formed part of the essential infrastructure supporting the event.

Professional security was provided by Close Protection International and professional first aid by Advanced Medic Solutions Ltd. These core services, together with insurance, safeguarding and event safety planning, are essential but largely invisible parts of delivering a safe community event.

A Platform for Local and Independent Enterprise

The event also gave independent traders and creators direct access to a large local audience. With approximately 3,000 visitors across the day, the event created footfall for traders and helped showcase creative work, products and services.



Free creative activities like this comic book character design workshop taking place alongside the busy indoor event programme.



Wider and Longer-Term Community Impact

The impact of the grant extends beyond Sunday 2 August. Community Comic Con CIC operates throughout the year through community outreach, support for other local events, social media promotion, the Comic Con Community Podcast, community groups, board gaming activities, volunteering and collaboration.

In the run-up to Lytham Community Comic Con, our Outreach Team supported other events including the Friends of Memorial Park Family Fun Day in Fleetwood and the Lowther Ice Cream Festival. Volunteers provided activities such as creative stations, plastic brick building, family games, character appearances and even a DJ. Our Comic Con Community Podcast provides a platform for independent actors, filmmakers, writers, artists and performers to discuss and promote their work.

The equipment, relationships, volunteer capacity and experience developed through the CIC are therefore reused throughout the year.



The Comic Con Community Podcast hosted local guest Q&A sessions as part of the event programme.

“My boys had an absolute blast. Such an amazing event, fingers crossed for next year.”

— Siobhan Louise Fahey, visitor feedback



Financial Sustainability

Community Comic Con CIC combines grant funding with fundraising, donations and activities such as tombolas. During Lytham Community Comic Con itself, £385.68 was raised towards future CIC activity.

Following the 2026 event, we estimate that approximately £2,821.75 is required to cover the main core costs of a future event - venue hire, insurance, security and first aid alone. This demonstrates why external funding remains important if admission is to stay free.

The £2,000 grant therefore acted as leverage: it helped secure the essential foundation upon which volunteer time, donated support, free performances and community participation could be built.



Outcomes Achieved

- Approximately 3,000 people attended throughout the day for a completely FREE community event.
- 139 volunteers, guests, performers, traders and other participants were involved in delivery.
- Essential local venue, insurance, security and first aid costs were supported.
- Families could experience a full day of entertainment without paying a fee to do so.
- Children and young people accessed creative, social and confidence-building activities for free.
- Local and independent creatives were given a public platform.
- Visitors reported making new friends and feeling welcomed.
- Feedback showed the event inspired further participation in cosplay and other creative activities.
- The event provided positive experiences for neurodivergent visitors and their families.
- Independent traders and creatives benefited from substantial local footfall.
- Volunteer skills, relationships and reusable capacity were strengthened.
- The event contributed to our wider year-round programme of outreach and creative promotion.



Costume and prop-making were celebrated throughout the day.

Value of the £2,000 Investment

The greatest impact of the funding is that it enabled much more than the payment of individual invoices. It helped create a safe environment in which approximately 3,000 visitors could come together; it helped us keep admission free; it supported volunteers and activity providers to donate their time; it gave independent creatives a platform; and it allowed families to participate regardless of income.

In this way, the social and community value generated by the £2,000 investment was considerably greater than the financial value of the grant itself.



Visitor Voice

Here is just some of the feedback that was received publicly from visitors after the event and provides direct evidence of their experience:

"Absolutely loved it!! Thank you for organising and keeping it free - it's no small feat to organise an event of this size! We sent a small donation... hoping others do too to keep them free for the future."

— Lucy Germaine

"Was the highlight so far of the year and summer. She is now wanting to do more cosplay."

— Kyle Cameron

"Excellent event guys, the little guy loved the wrestling, everyone made him feel super special... still buzzing from yesterday!!!! You did awesome."

— Marion Armer

"My daughter had a lovely day and met some new friends... great to have a comic con so locally."

— Diane Cowell

"Had the most amazing time, so many cosplayers happy to have photos with my autistic daughter... a massive thank you to the organisers and Lowther Pavilion."

— Suzanne Randall

"My boys had an absolute blast. Such an amazing event fingers crossed for next year."

— Siobhan Louise Fahey

"Thank you so much for organising today, it's been the highlight of my son's summer so far!... thank you so much for giving him the space to be in his element!"

— Tanya Hanson

"It was a brilliant day!! First time I've ever been to a comic con, definitely go again."

— Pauline Bayliss

Looking Ahead

Our long-term objective is to continue developing a sustainable model of free, inclusive community Comic Cons alongside our year-round outreach programme. Future Comic Cons remain dependent on securing funding towards core costs.

Holding a Community Comic Con is only one way in which we fulfil our CIC objectives. Our Outreach Team, podcast, social media platforms, community activities and partnerships allow us to continue promoting creatives, supporting community organisations and creating opportunities for participation throughout the year.



Thank You

Community Comic Con CIC would like to express our sincere thanks for the £2,000 funding contribution towards Lytham Community Comic Con 2026.

For a volunteer-led Community Interest Company, support towards essential core costs makes an enormous difference. The funding helped us turn months of volunteer planning into a safe, inclusive and completely free community event attended by approximately 3,000 people.

More importantly, it helped create opportunities for families, volunteers, creatives, performers and community organisations to come together, participate and feel part of something.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE LYTHAM COMMUNITY COMIC CON POSSIBLE



Community Comic Con CIC
Proud to be Different

Allan Phillipson
Director / Event Manager

Appendix: Visitor Feedback Evidence

Screenshots of public visitor feedback supplied by Community Comic Con CIC:



Lucy Germaine · 1w ❤️ bv author

Absolutely loved it!! Thank you for organising and keeping it free - it's no small feat to organise an event of this size! We sent a small donation on the go fund me, hoping others do too to keep them free for the future ❤️



Kyle Cameron · 6d 👍 bv author

Was the highlight so far of the year and summer she is now wanting to do more cosplay.



Marion Armer · 1w ❤️ bv author

Excellent event guys, the little guy loved the wrestling, everyone made him feel super special. We're both super ill today(thanks to the little man) but still buzzing from yesterday!!!! You did awesome.



Diane Cowell · 1w ❤️ bv author

My daughter had a lovely day and met some new friends, thank you to the friendly people she came across all day, to the very helpful stall holder who helped her pick out a gift and to the organisers, great to have a comic con so locally



Suzanne Randall · 6d 🍷 bv author

Had the most amazing time, so many cos players happy to have photos with my autistic daughter, the grand children and daughters bought lots on the stalls, davros was the star for me, just so funny .
Sadly had to leave earlier than the end so missed the dance off and conga, but a massive thank you to the organisers and lowther pavilion



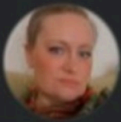
Siobhan Louise Fahey · 5d · Top fan

My boys had an absolute blast. Such an amazing event fingers crossed for next year xD



Tanya Hanson · 1h

Thank you so much for organising today, its been the highlight of my son's summer so far! We were there from opening to close, and he cried for about 20 minutes when it was finished because he didn't want it to end. Today was a really big day for him, thank you so much for giving him the space to be in his element!



Pauline Bayliss · 2h

It was a brilliant day!! First time I've ever been to a comic con, definitely go again 😊❤️