**For immediate release: 14 October 2021**

**[Insert the name of you project or organisation] gets boost to help create a more connected and resilient community thanks to National Lottery and IKEA funding**

[Insert the name of your project or organisation this should be the name in the headline above] based in [town/city] is celebrating today after being awarded [insert £XXX amount of money received as your grant] in funding from The National Lottery Community Fund and IKEA UK, as part of the £1.5million pilot programme, [Places Called Home](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/places-called-home).

The pilot programme from the largest funder of community activity and world’s largest home furnishing retailer, is supporting more than 330 local communities across the UK with grants of up to £5,000 to build back better and differently as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Places Called Home programme builds on the energy and creativity of communities coming together during the crisis to support each other and aims to inspire them to take action around healthy and sustainable living, while learning from each other and building meaningful connections.

[Insert the name of your project or organisation this should be the name in the headline above] will use their funding to [brief description of your project and the impact of the Places Called Home grant on your organisation and/or local people].

**[Project spokesperson, insert their name and their role at the project] said:** “[your quote should start with Thanks to National Lottery players and IKEA.... ]”

[Your quote should also include more details about your project – who it’s for, when will it start and how can local people get involved].”

Alongside the funding, with £1million made possible thanks to National Lottery players, all community groups that applied have now been invited to a virtual learning and support programme, created by [Participatory City Foundation](http://www.participatorycity.org/).

**Emma Ackerman, Funding Strategy Director at The National Lottery Community Fund said:** “As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that we can build on the energy and creativity we’ve seen to make stronger communities and a better everyday life. We’re delighted that together with IKEA and National Lottery players we have been able to support this across the UK with our pilot partnership and funding announced today.”

**Hege Saebjornsen, Partnership Advisor at Ingka Group said:** “The COVID-19 outbreak has demonstrated how fragile the world is, reinforcing the need for collective resilience - for our neighbourhoods, our communities and our planet. Through this programme, we have an opportunity to make sustainable and healthy living accessible and affordable for everyone while also unleashing the skills, energy and enthusiasm of communities to take part in making a difference every day.”

Places Called Home is a small-scale pilot to test how a partnership between the largest funder of community activity in the UK works with the world’s largest home furnishing retailer.

**-ends-**

**Contact:**

**[Point of contact for comms/publicity at your project – phone number, email address]**

**Notes to Editors:**

**About The National Lottery Community Fund**:

We are the largest funder of community activity in the UK – we’re proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Since June 2004, we have made over 200,000 grants and awarded over £9 billion to projects that have benefited millions of people.

We are passionate about funding great ideas that matter to communities and make a difference to people’s lives. At the heart of everything we do is the belief that when people are in the lead, communities thrive. Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, our funding is open to everyone. We’re privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

[Website](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/) │[Twitter](https://twitter.com/TNLComFund) │[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TNLCommunityFund) │[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/TNLCommunityFund)

**About IKEA UK:**

IKEA Retail UK is part of Ingka Group (Ingka Holding B.V. and its controlled entities). Ingka Group is one of 11 different groups of companies that own and operate IKEA sales channels under franchise agreements with Inter IKEA Systems B.V. Ingka Group has three business areas: IKEA Retail, Ingka Investments and Ingka Centres. It is the world’s largest home furnishing retailer operating 367 IKEA stores in 30 markets. These IKEA stores had 706 million visits during FY20, and 3.6 billion people visited www.IKEA.com.

The IKEA vision is to create a better everyday life for the many people, by offering a wide range of well-designed and functional home furnishing products at prices so low that as many as possible will be able to afford them. This vision goes beyond home furnishing: we also want our business to have a positive impact on people and the planet.

Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do. As part of our People and Planet Positive strategy, we want to inspire and enable the many to live more healthy and sustainable lives by making it easy and affordable through our products, services and expertise; we’re transforming into a circular and climate positive business, reducing more greenhouse gas emissions than the IKEA value chain emits, while growing our business; and we aim to have a positive social impact wherever we are in the world. From our co-workers and suppliers, to the communities where we operate and source our materials, we always strive to promote equality, diversity and respect for human rights.