

Tuesday 12th March 2024

To: All members of the Services & Communities Committee

Cllrs Nick Scott (Chair), Jeanette Bobey (Vice-Chair), Eamon Bobey, Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Penny Glasgow, Charlie Marsh, Ruth McMillan, D'Anne Mordecai, Deanna Norris, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Sue Smith, Lorna Webb.

Notice of Meeting

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Services & Communities Committee** to be held on **Monday 18th March 2024** commencing **6:30pm** at the **Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, The Local Centre, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG**, when the business set out in the following agenda will be transacted.

Members of the public can attend in person, submit questions in advance and or watch live via www.facebook.com/woughtoncc.

Please be aware that this meeting is being recorded and broadcast live. Microphones are live at all times – if you are not speaking formally within the meeting, please do keep any additional noise to a minimum and be aware that anything said within this meeting will be in the public domain'.

The full Calendar of Meetings can be accessed from the following link on the website:

<https://www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk/council-meeting-calendar/>

Steve McNay
Council Manager

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent or is switched off completely during the meeting.

AGENDA

SC 88/24 Apologies:

To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend the meeting

SC 89/24 Declarations of Interest:

Under the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, made under s30 (3) of the Localism Act, members must declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting, and any additional interests not previously declared.

SC 90/24 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):

To receive questions and statements from members of the public.

SC 91/24 Chairs announcements:

To receive announcements from the Chair.

SC 92/24 Minutes of previous meetings:

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on:

- Monday 19th February 2024.

(Attached)

Communities and Environment Fund Application(s)**SC 93/24 1st Langland Scout Group**

Application for £1,500 towards provision of an inclusion fund

SC 94/24 Netherfield Residents Association

Application for £895 towards a trip to Skegness

SC 95/24 Netherfield Residents Association

Application for £1250 towards a trip to Weymouth

SC 96/24 Phoenix Arts

Application for support for teaching of swing dance for performance at D-Day event

Reports

SC 97/24 To update the committee on grants applied for and received.

(Paper attached)

SC 98/24 To propose updates to the Resident Association agreement.

(Papers attached)

SC 99/24 To look at the Food Coordinator role and propose an approach for the future, prior to recruitment.

(Paper attached)

SC 100/24 Update on the Library of Things and confirm an approach to charging.

(Paper attached)

**SC101/24 Update on the Youth service provision
(Paper attached).**

**SC102/24 To inform the committee of the Hedgehog Highways scheme and clarify whether WCC would like to provide 'gates'.
(Paper attached and verbal report)**

Date of next meeting:

Monday 22nd April 2024, 6:30pm, at the Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, The Local Centre, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.



Woughton Community Council

Services & Communities Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 6:30pm
Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber,
60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.

Present: Cllrs Nick Scott (Chair), Jeanette Bobey (Vice-Chair), Eamon Bobey, Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Penny Glasgow, Deanna Norris, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Sue Smith, Alan Williamson.

Also present:

Steve McNay (Council Manager)
Sean Perry (Community Services Manager)

SC 78/24 Apologies:

Cllr Ruth McMillan (unwell)
Cllr D'Anne Mordecai (unwell)
Cllr Donna Fuller (meeting clash)

RESOLVED - All accepted

SC 79/24 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest

Noted

SC 80/24 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):

There were no questions received.

Noted

SC 81/24 Chairs announcements:

There were no announcements.

SC 82/24 Minutes of previous meetings:

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2024.

With the exception of Cllr Liz Simpkins being noted as present when not, the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Nick Scott

Seconded: Cllr Sue Smith

SC 83/24 To update the committee on issues relating to 20 mile per hour zone requests and community speedwatch programmes and training.

The Council Manager spoke to the paper that detailed the two issues:

a) MKCC requesting 'applications' for 20mph zone that show 'community involvement' and come

through parish, town or community councils, and
b) the process for applying to TVP for training and equipment around Community Speedwatch initiatives.

There were a number of issues raised by councillors, principally that there was support for 20mph zones, but that these would need to be 'policed' and concerns around the safety of speedwatch volunteers. For some estates, there was a clear view that speed restrictions would be supported but speedwatch wouldn't and that there needed to be additional elements included in any approach, including TVP support and the installation of speed bumps or similar. Those estates with 20mph limits did report that this was not a 'cure all'.

Any applications would need to be made by WCC to MKCC and would be agreed at this committee, once community support was evidenced. The Council Manager provided a sign-up form where residents could add their names to the list to support the application. It was suggested that community events (cafes, etc.) would be a good place to start with sign-ups, but for other places it might be helpful to door knock on each house to gain insight into support.

A request was made that Highways undertake a parish wide walk around to assess the situation, as things have changed significantly since the estates were built. The Council Manager agreed to suggest it to MKCC Highways department, whilst acknowledging the budget issues faced by the authority.

RESOLVED Proposal - That once petitions are provided to the committee, further action will be taken. NOTED

SC 84/24 To update the committee on the proposed donation of a van to support delivery of events, primarily linked to community food, across the parish.

The Council Manager gave a break down of the costs associated with the potential donation of a new van, via former councillor Brian Hepburn, coming from Tesco.

Councillors expressed their views that this would potentially enable additional services, such as Community Larders / Fridge on estates without buildings (PB and LH), offer additional benefits for events and similar and bring another vehicle for the councils use. It was also suggested that if the van was used for community fridge type services, it could also stock essentials and 'sell' these alongside. Councillors also stated that they would be happy to deliver these services, removing the cost of officer time.

It was noted that there would need to be a booking system to ensure that the van was used fairly and equitably.

RESOLVED Proposal - that the council agrees to take delivery of the donated van.

Proposed by Cllr Nick Soctt. Seconded : Cllr Sue Smith Vote: Unanimous

SC 85/24 To update the committee on publicity for upcoming events and other event related updates.

The Council Manager (CM) and Community Services Manager (CSM) presented the posters that have been created to advertise the upcoming events. These included D-Day, new table tennis club, the potential creation of a Residents Association for Coffee Hall and the Woughton is 50 event.

This included some further information about potential funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund towards some refurbishment of public realm resources, such as the Owl and the Pussycat Park. It was suggested that any work on public realm should include liaison with the residents association.

There was some concern that the Woughton is 50 poster was too small, but it was explained that this was only due to fitting on the committee papers, and it was the same size as the others. Concern was also noted that the poster was not as vibrant as some would like, that the Netherfield Residents Association (NRA) logo wasn't on it (it was, but very small) and that if this was an event that involved all estates, all RA logs should be included. The poster was not considered suitable and needed more 'oomph'.

RESOLVED – noted, with some further work to be done.

SC 86/24 Update on the January CCTV report from Crimewave Ltd.

The Council Manager updated the committee on the impact of the CCTV cameras. They have been useful in resolving issues and there have been thanks offered by TVP and others for the benefits that this has brought.

One camera will be moved to another area, where ASB, dog fouling and fly tipping is prevalent.

RESOLVED - noted

SC87/24 Update on the Communities and Environment grants fund for 2023/24

The Community Services Manager provided an update on the current situation with the grants fund. One change to the paper provided, with a trip being to Skegness, rather than Southend.

There remains a significant amount unspent - £6969. Any applications that are made prior to 1st March can be considered in the committee in March and, as long as awards are made at that meeting, activities can take place in the next financial year.

RESOLVED - noted

Date of next meeting:

Monday 18th March 2024, 6:30pm, at the Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, The Local Centre, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.

Communities and Environment Fund – Application Overview

Name of Applicant	1st Langland Scout Group - SC93/24
Date of application	22nd February 2024
Name of project	Inclusion fund to support young people' activities
Amount Requested	£1,500

Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)

Applicants comments:

Up to today, we have been referring to this project as a 'Hardship Fund'. It is to support young people whose parents struggle to pay some of the fees for camps and activities. We have also been thinking recently, about helping support some parents with uniforms for the young people.

We now feel that the term Hardship, perhaps is the wrong term. We now think 'Inclusion Fund' is a better name for it. No child should miss out because of their parent's financial situation. It is usually these children that gain the maximum benefit of Scouting.

Officers Comments:

Young people should have an equal chance to participate in activities, regardless of their family's financial situation. The inclusion fund will help young people participate in activities that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)

Applicants comments:

It should mean that no child will miss out on camps and activities because of financial constraints at home. Currently, we discreetly pay this from Group Funds. However our funds will not allow us to continue this in the long term resulting in some young people missing out.

We will have to hold more fund raising events in an attempt to bolster our funds. Our Trustee Board has recently gained some new members, which hopefully will lead to new ideas for raising funds.

Currently there are around 20 beneficiaries from within the parish, the majority coming from Netherfield.

Officers Comments:

Financial constraints should not be a barrier to participation in camps and activities.

Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?

Applicants comments:

No other funding has been applied for. The group is looking at other fundraising measures to keep the fund topped up, including a '100 Club' which is launching next month.

Officers Comments:

Officer Assessment

Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes No

Have we received all governance documents? Yes No

Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes No

Officer Recommendation and overview

Which fund would this application come from? Communities & Environment Fund

How much is currently in that fund? £7,169

For completion after scoring

Scorer No	Scorer Name	Total Score	Any other comments
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Average Score from all scorers:

Applications that score an average of below 15 will not be awarded.

Applications that score between 16 – 24 will be discussed

Applications that score an average of over 25 will be awarded (except in exceptional circumstances)

Outcome from Committee

Awarded in full Awarded in part (amount awarded) Not awarded Deferred

If deferred, please explain what actions are needed:

Date for resubmission (if applicable)

Communities and Environment Fund – Application Overview

Name of Applicant	Netherfield Residents Association - SC9424
Date of application	1st March 2024
Name of project	Skegness Trip 18th August 2024
Amount Requested	£895

Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)

Applicants comments:

We asked the residents where they would like to go and to give a reason why they have chosen to go to this venue, we asked on facebook, also at our meetings, they asked for Skegness, the reason given was that it was a flat area for walking, a nice beach, there are lots of activities to do and to see, and is a cheap place to go for families, is a short journey for the Coast distance. This is the largest estate in Woughton so a large Coach or 2 is required, the coach company no longer have a 79 seater, so we are looking at taking 2 x 53 seaters = 106 residents. We are the largest estate in Woughton, 2nd largest in Milton Keynes, we have 1,200 homes and around 3,500 residents here, so our activerties have a large up take, so reqiure to do more events than other estates, or rather cater for larger numbers.

If demand is high on both our trips, residents will be limited to only attending 1 trip, making it fairer so everyone wanting to go gets to attend at least one trip.

Officers Comments:

This is a good opportunity for people to get a day at the seaside and socialise with other people, when they may not be able to do so otherwise due to financial constraints or a lack of transport.

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)

Applicants comments:

It will allow families of Netherfield to take part in an activity that they probably would not be able to do themselves, due to funding, travel circumstances and the need to be supported by others, it will install family values, allow communication with other residents, distance and a chance to get away from everyday life and meet other residents, Skegness is known for being a flat venue, so will help residents with walking needs. After a take up from Netherfield residents, other estates only within Woughton can attend.

If the project isn't funded it could create isolation, mixed age groups not communicating with each other, most of the residents going are with other friends and family and would not be able to travel together due to funding and transport issues, it will allow poor & low income residents to be a part of something special, a lot of residents feel unsafe going somewhere on their own and can only go with a group who they can trust. the cost of a ticket would be £8 each, Coach companies have raised the costs considerably. A lot of residents now rely on the trips in their planning for the year as most cannot afford a holiday.

Officers Comments:

Previous trips have prove successful in helping residents to meet and socialise with other people, and have almost become a traditional part of the calendar.

Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?

Applicants comments:

The Residents Association have requested £895 from a total cost of £1,890. This represents a grant of less than 50% of the total cost. Tickets will be sold at £8 each, with Netherfield Residents Association funding the remainder.

Officers Comments:

Officer Assessment

Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes No

Have we received all governance documents? Yes No

Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes No

Officer Recommendation and overview

This trip is a good use of available funds - it offers an opportunity for residents to enjoy a day out at the seaside in the company of friends and family, at a reasonable cost.

Which fund would this application come from? Communities & Environment Fund

How much is currently in that fund? £7,169

For completion after scoring

Scorer No	Scorer Name	Total Score	Any other comments
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Average Score from all scorers:

Applications that score an average of below 15 will not be awarded.

Applications that score between 16 – 24 will be discussed

Applications that score an average of over 25 will be awarded (except in exceptional circumstances)

Outcome from Committee

Awarded in full Awarded in part (amount awarded) Not awarded Deferred

If deferred, please explain what actions are needed:

Date for resubmission (if applicable)

Communities and Environment Fund – Application Overview

Name of Applicant	Netherfield Residents Association - SC 95/24
Date of application	1st March 2024
Name of project	Weymouth Trip 21st July 2024
Amount Requested	£1,250

Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)

Applicants comments:

We asked the residents where they would like to go and to give a reason why they have chosen to go to this venue, we asked on facebook, also at our meetings, they asked for Weymouth the reason given was that it has a safe nice beach, there are lots of activities to do and to see, a working harbour with charm and character. This is the largest estate in Woughton so a large Coach is required or 2 x 53 seaters, the coach we normally have, a 79 seater is no longer available, so we need 2 x 53 seats.

We are the largest estate in Woughton, 2nd largest in Milton Keynes, we have 1,200 homes and around 3,500 residents here, so our activities have a large take up or more spaces needed

Officers Comments:

This is a good opportunity for people to get a day at the seaside and socialise with other people, when they may not be able to do so otherwise due to financial constraints or a lack of transport.

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)

Applicants comments:

It will allow families of Netherfield to take part in an activity that they probably would not be able to do themselves, due to funding, travel circumstances and the need to be supported by others, it will install family values, allow communication with other residents, and a chance to get away from everyday life and meet other residents, Weymouth is known for being a charming sea side venue. After a take up from Netherfield residents, other estates only within Woughton can attend.

If the project isn't funded it could create isolation, mixed age groups not communicating with each other, most of the residents going are with other friends and family and would not be able to travel together due to funding and transport issues, it will allow poor & low income residents to be a part of something special, a lot of residents feel unsafe going somewhere on their own and can only go with a group who they can trust. the cost of a ticket will be £10 each, A lot of residents now rely on the trips in their planning for the year as most cannot afford a holiday.

Officers Comments:

Previous trips have prove successful in helping residents to meet and socialise with other people, and have almost become a traditional part of the calendar.

Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?

Applicants comments:

The Residents Association have requested £1,250 from a total cost of £2,600. This represents a grant of less than 50% of the overall cost fo the trip. Tickets will be sold at £10 each. Any shortfall will be met by NRA funds.

Officers Comments:

Officer Assessment

- Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes No
- Have we received all governance documents? Yes No
- Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes No

Officer Recommendation and overview

This trip is a good use of available funds - it offers an opportunity for residents to enjoy a day out at the seaside in the company of friends and family, at a reasonable cost.

Which fund would this application come from? Communities & Environment Fund

How much is currently in that fund? £7,169

For completion after scoring

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Average Score from all scorers:

Applications that score an average of below 15 will not be awarded.

Applications that score between 16 – 24 will be discussed

Applications that score an average of over 25 will be awarded (except in exceptional circumstances)

Outcome from Committee

Awarded in full Awarded in part (amount awarded) Not awarded Deferred

If deferred, please explain what actions are needed:

Date for resubmission (if applicable)

Communities and Environment Fund – Application Overview

Name of Applicant	Phoenix Arts MK - SC 96/24
Date of application	27 th February 2024
Name of project	D-Day Swing Dance Performance & Workshop
Amount Requested	£460.96

Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)

Applicants comments:

We have identified- this was difficult as most tutors and organisations are already booked up for performances on and around the D Day anniversary – a school of dance SWINGSTERS that can offer 3hrs specialist tuition on Tuesday 2nd April at Eaglestone. To include sessions for both age groups and for the joint class on that day. It is hoped we will be able to invite parents and carers in for a taster on the 2nd. Phoenix team accepted the request to perform and participate at the WCC event in June. Songs are being learnt and practiced already but the team did not feel equipped or trained to be able to teach Lindy Hop/ Swing style dancing. The 3 hours tuition will not only teach the members a completely new style of dance and start the work to prepare them for the WCC event, It will train the Phoenix team so that the learning can be built on in the coming weeks. months and years, providing a legacy of this grant whereby further upskilling and development for an endless number of new choreography to be taught for existing and members who join in the future.

Officers Comments:

The performance is part of the D-Day commemorations at Woughton so it is important that the group are able to deliver the performance confidently. A key part of the grant is to provide funding for a workshop to deliver a Swing dance workshop, which can involve the whole community and provide a legacy aspect to the project.

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)

Applicants comments:

Attendees will have an opportunity to learn a new skill, try something new and have a rich, new experience both in the learning sessions but also by participating in the wider community event. We would go further to argue that the event itself will be better for the involvements of both the young performers and indeed the workshop , if possible.

Phoenix Arts will commit to retain the Swingsters dance teachers for the 1 hour tuition we have pledged from our own funds. The team will also continue to work with the young people to develop at least one piece for the WCC D Day event and have pledged to bring as many members and their families along on the day, regardless of whether we are successful with this funding application.

It is realistic though, that we will not be as able to create as an authentic piece without the full chance of tuition to the same standard or length. We will also not be able to offer the engagement aspect with the community members on the day, as hoped.

Officers Comments:

The whole project will play an integral part of the D-Day commemoration and the opportunity to deliver a dance workshop for residents will encourage community engagement and leave a lasting legacy.

Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?

Applicants comments:

The cost of the 3 hours workshops are £360. Phoenix has committed to pay £120 from their own budget, asking this committee for 2/3s of the cost. The team will also purchase plain tees and some coloured fabric which they will use to make costumes for the 6th June event's performance (to the cost of £100.96).

Officers Comments:

As above - the group is prepared to fund 1/3 of the total cost of the grant.

Officer Assessment

Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes No

Have we received all governance documents? Yes No

Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes No

Officer Recommendation and overview

This is a great opportunity to put on a professional performance as part of the D-Day commemorations on Woughton. The workshop adds a layer of community engagement which should have a lasting impact.

Which fund would this application come from? Communities & Environment Fund

How much is currently in that fund? £7,169

For completion after scoring

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Average Score from all scorers:

Applications that score an average of below 15 will not be awarded.

Applications that score between 16 – 24 will be discussed

Applications that score an average of over 25 will be awarded (except in exceptional circumstances)

Outcome from Committee

Awarded in full Awarded in part (amount awarded) Not awarded Deferred

If deferred, please explain what actions are needed:

Date for resubmission (if applicable)

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services and Communities Committee – 18th March 2024.

Agenda Item 97/24

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide an overview of the grants and funding applications we have recently closed, have open and have applied for at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the committee notes the report.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

WCC has and continues to explore, seek and access grant funding streams to better meet the needs of our residents, through service delivery projects, improvement and development to the local area and its facilities.

Directorate	Grant name & Funder	Project	Amount requested / awarded	Date awarded	Project time frame	End Date
Environment	National Lottery	Community Garden	£91,791.52	April 23	3 years	April 26
Environment		C G Fencing	£3,000.00			
Environment	MK CIF	Flood Defence Equip'	£5,000 (matched)	August 22	By fiscal year end	April 23
Youth	HAF Easter 23	Various activities	£1,910.40	Feb 23	1 week	April 23
Youth	HAF Summer 23	Various trips & activities	£7,005.00	June 23	4 wks.	Aug 23
Youth	ASDA Foundation	Top up for non HAF	£1,586.65	July 23	6 wks.	Sept 23
Youth	HAF Winter 23	Panto trip	£2,665.00	Nov 23	1 week	April 23
Youth	MKCF	Youth Outreach / Engagement	£3,000.00	18/09/23	16 wks.	29/01/24
Youth	HAF Easter 24	2 trips & P. Arts Camp	£4,702.50	March 24	1 week	April 24
Operations	Community Infrastructure Fund CIF	Accessibility Works in Community Buildings.	£8,114.00 (matched)	April 23	1 year	March 24
Operations	CIF (as above)	Solar at Tinkers Bridge	£3,600 (matched)	April 23	1 year	March 24
Youth	NL Million Hours	Widening Woughton's Youth work. Various	£62,705.00	Decision due now	2 years	April 26
Operations	FCC	Netherfield MP Courts Regeneration	£100,000.00	Decision due now	1 year 01/05/24	31/05/25
Operations	Police Crime Commissioner's	CCTV on WCC Buildings	£7,396.34	11.03.24	1 year	31.03.25
Operations	MKCC Arts & Heritage Fund	Netherfield 50 th . ABC, Owl & Pussycat project	£10,000.00	Not yet agreed or applied for Will be in March 23		
Operations	MK Community Foundation	Netherfield 50 th . ABC, Owl & Pussycat project	£10,000.00	Not yet agreed or applied for Will be in April 23		

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

- Grant applications take significant officer time: seeking & identifying appropriate funding, writing applications (which can include time spent gathering evidence and obtaining quotes) and managing funds that are secured. Furthermore, all awarded grants demand time spent evaluating impact, evidencing and reporting back to the funders. Work is being undertaken to develop a robust and manageable process for funding applications to ensure excessive pressure or time is not demanded from any one officer and that the advantages and income to WCC outweighs the costs.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- There is a genuine potential for marked improvements to facilities and service delivery offers when successful.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- There is a genuine potential for income generation, although it should be noted that all income generated through grant funding is allocated and spent without any chance of surplus. However, necessary works and improvements covered by grant funding have historically, can and will potentially reduce expenditure from the WCC budget and reserves.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Previously agreed Funding Application Process flow.

AUTHOR Tash Darling – Youth Services Manager & DSL

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services and Communities Committee – 18th March 2024

Agenda Item SC 98/24

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To suggest updates to the Resident Association ‘accord’

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the committee considers the review of the agreement between RA’s and WCC
2. That the committee agrees to the addition of:
 - a. That to receive the annual allowance, RA’s must be accredited by MKCC using the agreed process, showing that they have suitable systems and controls in place,
 - b. That RA’s should have an agreed ‘close down’ process, that details what will happen to any remaining funds or assets in the event of closure,
 - c. That the number of forums reduces to two(2) per year, reflecting attendance and demand.
 - d. That the reporting line within Appendix A be altered to include reporting to ‘other agencies’, rather than just to WCC officers or members.
 - e. The inclusion of ‘City’ where appropriate, reflecting the change of name for the principal authority.
3. That the new Coffee Hall Residents Association, the new Beanhill Resident Association and updated contact names be considered as the recognised RA for the estate, updating the list accordingly.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The original agreement between WCC and RA’s was developed in 2018, with a view that this should be regularly reviewed. To this end, and in response to requests for clarity from both RA’s and councillors, this is that review for the coming year.

The agreement was implemented to try and ensure that RA’s had sufficient money to run - £500 each year was considered sufficient to ensure that insurance could be purchased, newsletters could be produced, an event could take place, etc. This has not always happened with RA’s and there have been concerns expressed about the lack of accountability for what is public money being spent.

As a result, it is suggested that RA’s should register through the MKCC accreditation scheme to show that they have suitable and sufficient processes and procedures in place, to ensure transparency and suitable fiscal management. If this isn’t possible (it is unclear as to whether RA’s on non HRA estates can register through that scheme), RA’s should expect to provide evidence to WCC to show suitable controls are in place.

There have been a number of RA’s that have ‘closed’ over the past few years and this has brought additional issues around how this could / should be managed ethically and legally. What should happen to any monies remaining? What happens to equipment or supplies that remain in place? How should assets be disposed of?

To address this, it is suggested that RA’s should have, as part of a governing document, a statement explaining what actions will be taken to ensure the effective ‘close down’ of the association. This

should, ideally, include details of where any monies will go, what will happen to resources, who will take control of any website / social media accounts and so on. This has been proposed as an additional element needed to be able to have the annual WCC RA 'allowance'.

Other changes include

- reducing the number of RA forums to two annually – this reflects the current level of both interest and 'buy in' from all parties and, rather than continuing to have unachievable aims in place, change this to reflect the reality.
- To encourage RA's to report issues directly to the appropriate agency, rather than only to WCC officers and members. This is specially around reporting to MKCC for the list of issues noted (e.g. fly tipping, broken street lights, etc.)
- Adding 'City' to Milton Keynes City Council, following the awarding of city status and the change of name.

The final consideration is around 'Recognised RA's'. This has been updated to reflect the changes since the initial document was produced. Whilst for some, this is simply an update to the person in charge, there are some wholesale changes that need to be agreed and ratified:

- That the new associations on Beanhill and Coffee Hall are agreed as the recognised RA's for the respective estates.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Agreement for WCC Support to RAs Mar 24 draft

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Woughton Community Council (WCC) is committed to supporting Resident Associations (RA) across the parish to deliver the range of activities and initiatives suitable for their residents. As part of this support, Woughton Community Council agrees to:

- Provide annual funding to support the running costs of the Residents Association, to be reviewed annually and paid in May of each calendar year. As of April 2024, this amount is £500, but will be reviewed annually. *This payment is dependent on*
 - o *the RA successfully being accredited by the Milton Keynes City Council RA team, showing suitable systems and controls are in place.*
 - o *The RA having an agreed closure policy that details what happens to any financial or other assets in the event that the RA ceases to operate*
- To provide space(s) within a minimum of four (4) training sessions each year to members of the residents association, at no cost.
- To provide, free of charge, use of a WCC Community Venue, for RA's to hold regular meetings or events, to a maximum of 12 times / 30 hours rental, annually. Where an RA operates in an area where WCC do not have a venue, there will be access to a) the closest community venue to their estate or b) a maximum of £200 per year towards rental of a suitable space within their estate.
- To enable residents associations to borrow equipment owned by WCC, including (but not limited to) gazebos, play equipment, tables, chairs, Public Address system, projectors and similar. A full list of equipment available to borrow will be provided and updated each year.
- To provide space within the WCC 'Gazette' newsletter for the resident association to advertise or inform local residents. Any articles submitted will be subject to the same controls as other articles (e.g. edited for space, compliance with legal duties, etc.). WCC will give a minimum of 30 days notice for 'cut off' for submissions.
- To compile a list of resources and assets owned by RA's, to enable RA's across the parish to support each other (with agreement).
- To host a minimum of *two (2)* forums each year for ALL local RA's to discuss issues relevant to all and help formulate the WCC annual Service Plan and budget, ensuring a minimum of 30 days notice for each forum date.
- To attend RA AGM and other meetings as requested upon invite from the RA.
- To support RA events and activities where possible and upon invite from the RA.
- To supply each RA with a copy of the WCC annual accounts as they become available, and to make available the annual accounts for the past five years on the Woughton Community



Woughton Community Council – Support

Council website

- To inform RAs of funding opportunities and help prepare grant proposals.
- To publicise RA meetings on the WCC website, social media and community notice boards.
- To provide officer support to associations when requested for development, training and support.
- To provide guarantees and insurance against damage where equipment owned by Resident Associations is loaned or used by other associations or by the council.

The underpinning ethos of this support is collaboration, partnership and shared approaches.

Please note Appendix A, which details a shared view of how Resident Associations can best deliver support to their communities and work with WCC to this end.

This agreement will be reviewed annually with Resident Associations at the final forum of the financial year.

Appendix 1 – Suggested Resident Association delivery

Woughton Community Council understands that Resident Associations within the parish work in different ways, have different priorities and are at different levels of development. The Council supports this individuality and is committed to working with each Association in a way that is constructive, welcomed and with the overarching ethos of partnership and making the parish the best possible place to live, work and visit.

Whilst the Council does not wish to be prescriptive in its approach, we would encourage Resident Associations to consider the following;

- That they are open and transparent in their provision, providing agendas and minutes in advance of meetings and welcoming ALL members of the public to be involved
- That they invite WCC to be involved in RA events
- That they *consider* requests from neighbouring RA's to borrow / rent equipment owned or managed by the named RA with guarantees / insurance for damage underwritten by WCC
- That they offer space on WCC funded trips to neighbouring RA's, in the event that they are not fully subscribed and to consider collaborative approach to trips to provide different destinations
- That they send a representative of the RA to the WCC arranged 'RA's Forum' ~~at least twice annually, and preferably each time~~
- That they communicate issues that falls under the remit of WCC to the appropriate officer / member / *agency* for action. This includes (but is not limited to); fly-tipping, litter and waste issues, faulty equipment (including play parks and street lighting), anti-social behaviour and similar
- That they encourage applications from local community groups to the WCC Grant Aid programme
- That they promote inclusion, equality, and diversity within all activities (except where limited by nature of event, e.g. a youth club or older persons dinner).
- That they act professionally in all aspects of delivery, promoting positive impressions of the parish and working towards the betterment of their estate(s) and the parish of Woughton as a whole.

We would encourage local Resident Associations to make use of the resources offered by Milton Keynes City Council and comply with the expectation of the Resident Involvement Team (e.g. to have a constitution, maintain effective financial controls, etc..). WCC are happy to offer support where requested to enable RA's to meet the standards expected.

Appendix 2 – Recognised Resident Associations in Woughton

Woughton Community Council parish area covers seven residential and two industrial estates. Each of the residential estates has a Residents Association. Woughton Community Council will offer support as detailed in this document to one association on each residential estate (alternative support via a Business Forum will be offered to the industrial estates, in the event that this is wanted).

As of May 2019, the recognised Resident Associations and named contacts are:

Beanhill	Beanhill Residents Association (BRA) – Geoff Woolmore
Coffee Hall	Coffee Hall Residents Association (CHRA) – Sharon Shachar
Eaglestone	Eaglestone Residents Association (ERA) – Kadmiel Masey
Leadenhall	Leadenhall Residents Association (LRA) – Roz Macherenas
Netherfield	Netherfield Residents Association (NRA) – Eamonn Bobey
Peartree Bridge	Peartree Bridge Residents Association (PBRA) – Linda Corlett
Tinkers Bridge	Tinkers Bridge Residents Association (TBRA) – John Orr

It is requested that ALL associations provide up to date contact details and notify WCC of any changes to the details held and to inform the council if associations do not want their details publicised on the website.

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services and Communities Committee – 18th March 2024

Agenda Item SC 99/24

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To support discussion regarding the Food Coordinator role, with a view to developing a new Job Description for advertising the vacant position.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the committee considers the role that community food plays within the council and wider community, gives a clear view on the wishes for future delivery to enable a new job role to be developed.
2. That the job description creation is delegated to officers, to enable advertising the role in a timely manner, with consideration of the discussions that take place and any subsequent clarifications from committee members.
3. That the job role goes 'live' for applications by the end of March, with a view to appointing a new co-ordinator as quickly as possible.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Following the current coordinator leaving the council, reviewing the job role, the development that has taken place over the past few years and looking forward to the future delivery of community food approaches, it was proposed that a discussion take place regarding the provision to ensure that a job specification, clear plan and defined approaches are in place prior to appointing a new officer.

When the previous job holder was appointed, the role was new and encompassed a range of services that had evolved over a number of years – the community fridge (originally a joint youth and environment project), the community café (which developed during lock down as a way of maintaining engagement, using the outdoor space) and the Community Larder, which was added as an additional option.

In addition to these services that were covered by the coordinator, there are a range of other activities that are managed by other officers, groups or agencies. These include:

- Netherfield Café (currently Community Development Officer led)
- Eaglestone café and food share (currently Community Development Officer led, with support from Eaglestone RA and Abba Father)
- Tinkers Bridge fridge, larder and café (Tinkers Bridge RA led and managed, supported through use of building, etc by WCC)
- Netherfield Community Fridge (led and managed by Grand Union Church and a cohort of volunteers).
- Beanhill Larder, coffee morning, etc. (led and managed by Moorland Family Centre)
- Food within youth provision (currently a shared 'batch cook' with youth and Food Coordinators taking part).
- Events and activities that whilst not directly food related, include an element of food provision (this includes regular things, such as the Games Night (councillor led) and one off events, such as D-Day, festival, Remembrance, community cinema, etc.)

As can be seen, food plays a part in much of our work and reaches every directorate of the council. This will increase further with the start of community growing at the gardens, with potential to use this to support further approaches.

When first appointed, the Coordinator was the first in the role and has done an excellent job of recruiting and supporting volunteers, managing the challenges of a public facing service, developed systems and processes for the three Coffee Hall based activities and raised the profile of the community food offer. However, the role has grown (see above) and as a result, there may be a wish to see a more holistic approach taken within the council and parish, building stronger collaborations, utilising the new van, having all food services under one lead officer and so on.

The current postholder is employed for 20 hours per week. This is enough to manage the current set up, but if the committee chooses to develop the role, there may be an additional hours need, with the associated additional cost.

It is suggested that the committee considers:

- What does 'community food' include? Should it cover the cafes at NF and ES?
- Should there be work to reduce the amount of officer support needed across the parish, with the coordinator role focusing purely on building sustainable approaches through partnerships and volunteers?
- Is 'food' an area that the council should continue to prioritise in both funding and delivery?
- Should the food services that WCC provides be seen as they were intended in the early stages (i.e. food waste reduction, social spaces to meet) or does council now consider them to be addressing issues of poverty, access to food and therefore more of a 'crisis' service, that cannot be managed without?
- What do we want to see in the future? How does it fit in with the aspirations of the council more broadly, with the other 'food' offers (e.g. food bank vouchers) and with future ideas around additional projects.
- Where does the 'pastoral' element of the role sit – how does the coordinator ensure that people who may have additional needs are supported and enabled to be part of any provision? Is this something that should sit with the role?

Whilst simply re-employing an officer to do the same job as the previous coordinator is an option, this is an excellent opportunity to review, assess and consider what is needed for the future.

There should also be some consideration given to how we might choose to deliver services – are the hours for the sessions still right? Should we reduce the opening hours for the fridge to reflect delivery schedules and the fact that we usually close early because the food is gone? Should we simply run a café, that offers coffees / cake until noon and then a cooked lunch until 1pm? How much should the sessions be determined by members of the public wanting what they want and how much should it be delivering against the wishes of the council?

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

There is some urgency with this, as the role is currently being covered by other officers, whilst these discussions take place. Given this, as noted above, agreement by month end is needed to ensure longer term sustainability and consolidation / development of the services.

AUTHOR

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services and Communities Committee – 18th March 2024

Agenda Item SC 100/24

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To update the committee on the ‘Library of Things’ and request clarity on any charging policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the committee notes the report
2. That the committee decides on a charging policy for the Library of Things.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The Tool Library that has been successfully running for many years is being expanded to become a ‘Library of Things’, as discussed at length over a number of months (years?). The project is now ready to launch, with the depot site a suitable place from which to operate, equipment and resources in place and agreement around potential opening hours, online systems and similar.

In the initial stages, it is proposed that the scheme is open on a Monday and Friday, allowing weekend or weekly borrows, with collection and returns at the depot site on Rochfords*. There will be a limited range of equipment to start (see list below) with a view to expanding and increasing as the scheme develops. Use of volunteers to increase hours, potential to run a ‘repair café’ alongside, etc. will also come in time.

*Consideration should be given to continuing to offer delivery for people who may need this.

There remains a discussion to have around a charging policy. The tool library has always been free to users, with the (limited) equipment delivered and collected from people’s houses, with no deposit / charges levied.

There are a number of suggestions made:

- An annual membership fee, paid upon initial registration, where a form is completed, and details taken (e.g. ID for address to ensure details are in place is anything goes wrong). This could be anywhere from £5 - £20 per year as a basic fee.
- A fee for each item borrowed, on a pay per rental OR a pay by period basis (e.g. an item that is £5 per rental (up to a month?) or £3 for a week / £1 a day / whatever). This could be dependent on the item, with those things that have ongoing costs (e.g. strimmer wire) having a higher charge.
- An ‘all in’ option - a larger fee that covers membership and all rentals.
- A combination of the above.
- Something else entirely.

There is an absolute need to have membership, so that we can ensure that any borrowing is on parish, at an agreed address and is somewhere we can chase up in the event of a non-return.

If we use an online booking system (this is the plan), then online payments can be an option, at an additional cost. Any money should be carefully considered in terms of how this is taken / managed /

stored, and it is suggested that online payment should be the default – book an item / take out a membership and pay at that point. However, for some people, this would exclude them, so alternatives should be considered in terms of payments at the office.

The committee is encouraged to discuss this issue, consider what their view is and then delegate development of an agreed process to officers for implementation.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

Any new system will take time and making best use of the technology in place is the most effective way of managing this. However, with high levels of digital exclusion within the parish, a level of officer time and involvement is essential. This may include some office based staff need, if cash money is being taken.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Initial list of items for the Library of Things:

Library of Things

1. 3 mowers
2. 2 strimmer's
3. Gazebos (?)
4. Carpet cleaner
5. Jet washer
6. Folding ladder
7. PA system
8. Bike trailer
9. Chairs and tables
10. Apple pickers
11. Sack barrow
12. Litter pickers / hoops
13. Spades / forks
14. Crockery – t-sets
15. Glasses – wine
16. Smoothie Bike
17. Slow cookers
18. Pumps (water – electric)
19. Dehumidifiers

Suggestions:

1. Steam cleaner
2. Tyre inflator / jump pack
3. Car repair stuff (jacks, etc.)
4. Wallpaper stripper / steamer
5. Hedge trimmer (electric)
6. Tile cutter
7. Leaf blower (electric)
8. Manual apple pressing kit
9. Hot water urn
10. Wheelchair, crutches, walker, etc. – Age UKMK?
11. Tool box (basics – screwdriver, hammer, socket set, spanners, etc.)
12. First Aid kit (for events – needs to be explored)

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services and Communities Committee – 18th March 2024.

Agenda Item SC 101/24

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide an update of our Youth Service. Reflecting on the current offer and to ensure the committee are informed of plans for the months ahead.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the committee notes the report.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

What have we been up to.

We are still running our weekly programme:

- There are five open access youth groups running every week.
- There is one Play Ranger session term time.
- Young Parents continues. Also, open access for anyone withing the age range.
- There is an open access drop-in Youth Advice Café which is supported by WAS.
- The doors remain open for drop-ins for Sexual health, C Card pick-ups.
- A youth worker visits MKA one break time per week.

In addition, we have a notable presence at:

- MK Youth Provision Forum
- The Healthy Young People's Network
- The Suicide Prevention Network
- Young People's Mental Health Task group
- And a secured reporting pathway to MK DEAL, helping to inform policy across the city.

With only a few notable changes since the last update.

- A decision was made with councillors and RA to put TB youth groups on hiatus through the winter and reassess whether a Play Ranger would serve the estate better through the summer months. Therefore, we have not been running on a Wednesday out of the meeting place.
- Coffee Hall Junior and Senior Youth projects have been launched and are both going very well. Both have taken off brilliantly and if anything, the Seniors is over subscribed.
- An additional element of detached youthwork has been added to Eaglestone groups.
- We have partnered with Moorland school to enable a safer, more accessible year-round Play Ranger offer on Beanhill. Between October and March, we are based in the school, with April to September based at Tin Man Park.
- All projects continue to offer food as always. However, during the winter months we have partnered with the Community team to offer warm room meals.
- Alternative pathways for Mental Health support have been sought and secured following the closure of YIS and KOOTH, And the commissioning of new services across MK.

We also host / partner to deliver:

- Weekly Phoenix Arts sessions for two age groups
- Fortnightly Music Club sessions with MKCC Music Hub.
- Under The Umbrella run two groups per week from No95 and a Parent support group monthly for young people who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- U DO It Dance have utilised the Gym for 1:2:1 specialist work and small group engagement with young people with specific needs.
- Weekly Home Ed' Hang Outs for Teens- currently within an 8 wk pilot is facilitated space for non-schooled 12-17yr olds to socialise, develop peer support networks and access professionals. This is offering a great learning experience for our team and is even generating a little income.

The partnership agencies we continue to work with regularly are:

- Children's Social Care
- MASH
- TVP
- MKCC Youth & Participation
- Under The Umbrella
- Phoenix Arts
- Young Carers MK
- Mind BLMK
- MKUH
- Public Health
- Children & Family Practice
- Fast Team / Healthy Relationships Programme
- MKCC SEND Team
- MK SENDias
- PACCA
- Family & Children's Centres
- Our local schools, particularly MKA, Moorland and Langlands.
- MK Young People's Drug & Alcohol Team
- Boxing Clever
- MK Together
- MK Movers
- The OU
- LEAP
- Relate
- The Wellbeing Service
- Places For People / Service Six
- APA
- Q Alliance
- Talking Therapies
- Ride High
- YMCA
- Springfield House

Staffing Update

Our senior Youth Worker / Youth Development Officer continues to work 35hrs per week and we currently have 6 contracted part-time Youth Support Workers, working a total of 26.5 hrs per week term time plus an MKCC Youth Support Worker for 6 hrs per week. The Youth Service has the strongest and fullest compliment of staff than we have for over 5 years. Which enables us to function well. We are still not back to full capacity (previously 32hrs) but due to recent pay increases pushing our budget, the plan is to maintain these staffing levels and the delivery we can, within them. It is necessary for the Youth Manager to continue to be an active team member in many of our weekly projects. This is not a major issue and can be argued a necessary step in delivering the variety and quality we have committed to. However, with wider organisational restructuring, it is likely this will reduce, and other staff will increase their hours. On a good week, everything runs smoothly but it doesn't take much disruption: sickness or annual leave to make delivery challenging. It should be noted that there will always be a challenge in a service that is based on sessional employees.

However, on reflection difficulty is not common so the risk / benefit suggests we have the balance right.

Additional projects of note.

- OU research project- almost at a close now, the young people involved have had an excellent opportunity to feed into government level research, learn research skills for themselves and develop a 'Change Project' which is likely to have a significant positive legacy for other Woughton young people.
- The MK Community Foundation funded Outreach / Engagement project enabled 11 additional hours of youthwork per week for 16 weeks. This concluded at the end of January. During the project we have gained significant understanding and insight into not only what local young people need and want from a youth service, but also what parents / Carers and the professionals in their lives experience and feel about their young people and services for them.

Through both the OU and MKCF projects we have learnt a great deal about important issues for our young resident and as a result have not only adapted our own services with great outcomes but have secured some legacy work and support from other agencies to take the learning forward and further implement positive change. Particularly around Mental Health and Safety.

- Barrista Walls / Park Project is ongoing and will see the Schools and Community workshops happen through March & April to influence designs for the walls. A community event on Saturday 20th April when local artist and local people can meet the artist for the last time before the artwork is undertaken and will complete new designs on the rear / park facing sides of the walls. The main walls will be painted by the commissioned artist in the following weeks and on Saturday May 11th the final Event, the new walls are presented as complete as part of a celebratory event. The Mayor will be present at both events, and we hope the press. Councillors are encouraged to attend as this marks an important time in our parish heritage. There is some preparatory work to be undertaken by our team before mid April.
- Peartree Bridge Play Ranger Spring event has been set for Saturday 13th April on the Dinosaur field, in partnership with the Parks Trust. This will be a family fun day type event 12am-3pm. It will include Soft Play, inflatables, Arts & Craft activities, games etc. Families will be encouraged to picnic. It is hoped we can use this event to launch further engagement with PTB families (everyone welcome) and it is the first of what is now set to be an agreed annual event to be led by The Parks Trust. As much wider team and councillor participation as possible is desired. *This event is costed to the Youth Budget for WCC's contribution rather than the events budget this year. The Parks Trust are heavily supporting, and Cllr Sue Smith has pledged allowance.
- The Youth team has partnered with the Community food team to deliver two successful family centred projects with the Community Café. One at Christmas and for Pancake & Valentines Day. There were notable positives and they provided and great learning opportunity we can build on. The Youth Manager would welcome more cross working between current directorates to better meet the needs and benefit our families, in the coming year.
- Warm Room batch cooking has been a new initiative with Food and Youth team working alongside each other to cook all the food for all Warm Rooms together. Cooking has supported the Engagement officer's work, reduced individual officers time used and reduced expenditure. There are lessons learnt and options for future joint working need to be explored but it has overall been a very positive trial.

- A partnership has been secured with Boxing Clever to enable a England Boxing coach to be present at all term time Tuesday Seniors sessions until at least July 2024 at no cost to WCC.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

- The Youth Manager would like to see an on-going volunteer drive implemented to support the existing team, release pressure on the Youth Manager and Senior Youth Officer and prevent potential closures due to annual and sick leave.
- Support from the wider team is required for the Barrista Walls and PTB Spring event.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- Only area of real challenge is accessing necessary training for the youth team, in part because there is little choice to meet our needs and it is difficult to find training that part-time staff can attend. The Youth Manager will continue to prioritise the continued professional development of the team.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Committee should be aware that we continue to utilise bank staff and increase regular staff's hours during the school holiday. There is therefore an increase in the summer month's salary expenditure. However, this expenditure is planned and necessary. The Youth Manager will utilise external funding and adaptive scheduling to minimise any additional negative deficit to the youth service delivery budget for the year as a whole.
- The Youth Service budget is currently underspent in terms of resources and materials. It is expected the year end will have us well within budget. This is due to the large proportion of external funding generated in 23/24 enabling the Youth Manger to significantly reduce expenditure from the Youth Service Budget. It is noted the budget has been reduced for 24/25
- External funding to the Youth Service in 23-24 has been to the value of £19,165.00. These funds result in additional aspects of our service offer being cost neutral to the council / youth service budget and the aforementioned reduction in predicted WCC spend. There is no way to predict or rely upon similar external funding for the coming financial year, however, the Youth Manager will continue to seek, apply and utilise opportunities for external funding to supplement our offer and indeed our budget. Where agreed by the Council Manager and RFO and when not to detriment of other directorates within WCC.
- Additional income received and generated for venue hire and to cover additional staff for delivery of HAF projects is recorded by the RFO within the appropriate budget lines.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None. However, attention is directed to the WCC website for the weekly Youth Service calendar.

AUTHOR Tash Darling – Youth Services Manager & DSL



Hedgehogs R Us

Linda Cook
12 Richmond Close
Market Weighton
YO433EX

HedgehogsRus@mail.com

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read this letter!

I am writing to all Councils, Parishes, Towns and Wards in the UK to ask them to take part in this amazing project!

Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

With Hedgehog numbers in decline and Hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to get involved in Hedgehog conservation.

A Hedgehog Highway is a 5 inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates.

Hedgehog shaped fence surrounds raise awareness to the plight of Hedgehogs, create a talking point and encourage others to take part in the project. Fence surrounds are made from recycled plastic and can themselves be recycled.

I am asking for each area of the UK to use a small portion of their assigned funds to purchase a box of hedgehog highway surrounds and make them available for their residents.

Each box of 50 is £150 and includes:

- * 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds & 50 information leaflets
- * A display box & window sticker showing you are part of the project.

Ideas of how to benefit your community include:

- * Donate the Highways and leaflets to your local school to educate in wildlife conservation
- * Swap the Highways for a donation of Hedgehog food which can then be given to your local Hedgehog Rescue Centre



The project will be receiving a lot of publicity in the coming months via Social Media and I really hope that you choose to take part.

My dream is to make the whole of the UK one giant Hedgehog Highway and for that dream to come true, it needs EVERYONE to take part.

Money is donated to Hedgehog Conservation for every box sold too!

If you would like to order or have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch and thank you for caring.

Linda Cook, Founder of Hedgehogs R Us