

HARMONDSWORTH SCOUTS GET NEW GARDEN

Grants totalling £44,000 from Hillingdon Community Trust have enabled 1st Harmondsworth Scouts to turn a virtually unusable area behind their Scout Hut into a multi-purpose garden featuring an area for camping, specialist play equipment, a barbecue area, a ramp for users with disabilities and a wildlife area.



The new garden was officially opened by the Mayor, Cllr Shirley Harper O'Neill on Friday 11th September at 6.30. The opening was also attended by Hillingdon Community Trust representatives, local councillors and most importantly 1st Harmondsworth Scouts. The garden, which was jointly project managed by local environmental charities, the Green Corridor and Groundwork Thames Valley will be a great asset for the scout group according to Scout Leader Janet Woeginger,

"Before, this patch of land was more of a liability than a benefit for the group"

she commented. 'At the outset, we simply envisaged tidying the area up, but what has been achieved is fantastic for the children. They can camp here in the summer, have barbeques and get to appreciate wildlife at close quarters. We are also delighted that the area is open to wheelchair users. It is great to see the scouts having fun in the garden.'

Christine Taylor, Chair of Hillingdon Community Trust's main grants committee and a local resident added, 'The Trust is very pleased to have been able to support this ambitious project. It has certainly not been an easy journey, but it is a tribute to Janet and her team running the 1st Harmondsworth Scout Group that they were not easily diverted from their vision, and that is why we are here today. Few Scout Groups are lucky enough to have such a hard working and devoted team and the Trust is delighted to have worked with them on this project alongside Green Corridor and Groundwork Thames Valley to create a top quality area for this group.'

BRUNEL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME

Hillingdon Community Trust is funding an exciting new Community Action Programme (CAP) managed by Brunel University and aimed at creating new links for Brunel students to volunteer in the local community.

The Community Action Programme (CAP) is a managed pilot, one year programme of student volunteering, part funded by the Hillingdon Community Trust and match-funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Using links with existing community and voluntary organisations active in the communities in the six wards of the London Borough of Hillingdon, carefully selected and trained student volunteers will each be placed to undertake a minimum of fifty hours volunteering over the project life cycle. This new initiative is designed to meet the Hillingdon Community Trust objectives of enhancing the quality of life and opportunities available to communities in the six southern wards of the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Although volunteers have to complete fifty hours over the course of the academic year, this can be over a range of projects. Groups do not have to provide fifty hours' worth of work - a small number of regular hours per week, or a team of volunteers for a one-off project; are also possibilities.

Lindsay Topham, Project Co-ordinator at Brunel, is responsible for providing an on-going link between the community partners and the programme participants. Organisations working within the six southern wards of Hillingdon that believe they could benefit from the use of volunteers from the university are invited to contact Brunel direct to discuss participation in the initiative. Please get in touch with lindsay.topham@brunel.ac.uk.



HCT FUNDING FOR ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR GROUPS

Introduction

Hillingdon Community Trust has funded an organisational development programme managed by Groundwork Thames Valley for the last 5 years. The programme has been very successful and many groups in the Trust area have benefited from the programme in terms of governance, training, fundraising, project management and improved financial management programme. The final phase of that project has now ended but the Trust will be continuing its investment in developing groups in its area by funding consultancy or other activities to reach stated objectives.

What will the Trust be doing to help groups in its area to get organisational development support?

The Trust will be inviting groups in our area to apply directly to the Trust for funding for consultancy or other support that would enable them to become more effective. The Trust's capacity building subcommittee will consider applications from groups and make recommendations to the Board on the group's suitability for funding. Rather than asking groups to complete a form, we will ask them to submit a proposal to the Trust outlining the following. This will need to be accompanied by statutory accounts and the group's constitution (unless we already hold these), budgets and management accounts.

The bid should cover:

- The group's main objectives
- Information on its management structure, including information on numbers of staff, board, etc.
- What they perceive as their current challenges and barriers to development. For example, these might be some of the following – or there might be other challenges that you might want to let us know about:

Fundraising and developing a funding strategy

Development of core-funding strategy

Setting organisational objectives & development of business plan

Help in strengthening the management committee

Volunteer strategy

Effective human resource management

Project development and management support

Developing and managing partnerships

Developing sustainability plans

Development & implementation of quality assurance systems

Managing current resources effectively

Effective communication

- What organisational development work the group wants to undertake.
- What the intended outcomes will be from an organisational development programme.
- How the group intends to sustain the change the programme brings about.
- Proposed timescale for the programme.
- A demonstration of commitment from staff and board.
- Cost of the programme, including number of days consultancy where relevant, level of support to be provided, credentials of the consultancy organisation (where applicable).

It is envisaged that a meeting would take place with the group as part of the assessment process.

To help groups to identify suitable consultants, we agreed to have a small group of consultants that groups could approach for a proposal for support. This consultant list indicates areas of expertise, e.g., governance, fund raising, board development, mentoring. However groups would be free to use other organisations. For information on these consultants, who have a range of suitable experience and who have expressed a willingness to work with groups in our area, contact HCT. HAVS has also agreed to provide consultancy services funded by HCT under this programme.

Criteria

The Trust believes it is helpful to set criteria for the types of groups eligible for support. Although the criteria are flexible as possible, the current project has demonstrated that groups with the following characteristics are most likely to benefit from organisational development:

- Have a board of management committed to developing the group and who are active – e.g. participation in board meetings, involved in the activities of the group.
- Generally have at least one paid member of staff (although this is not a hard and fast rule).
- Have a minimum of turnover of £10,000 per annum. Groups with a turnover of more than say £100,000 would need to make a special case for capacity building funding.
- Have a constitution and ideally be a charity or a company limited by guarantee).

However, these criteria are reasonably flexible.

The most important requirement being a commitment by the Management committee, staff and volunteers to developing the organisation.

Priorities for organisational development

Funding priority would be given to proposals for organisational development programmes that improve an organisation's capacity to have the skills, tools and ability for:

- Effective governance
- Leadership development
- Partnership development and maintenance
- Monitoring and evaluating efficiently and effectively including setting and achieving outcomes
- Marketing and publicity of their organisation
- Risk Management
- Help organisations to achieve funding with a view to sustaining their activities (through development of core funding strategies)
- Provide volunteer and trustee development programmes
- Promote community cohesion through partnerships promoting diversity and joint working

For further information please contact the Trust Director, Christine Little, on 020 8581 1676 or email christine@hillingdoncommunitytrust.org.uk

NEW GARDEN FOR GRASSY MEADOW DAY CARE CENTRE

Grassy Meadow Day Care Centre in Hayes has a new garden thanks to a grant of £13,000 from Hillingdon Community Trust. The Day Centre has a large garden that was difficult to maintain to a level of most benefit to its service users. 60 elderly people and 30 adults with physical and sensory disabilities attend the centre on a daily basis. The new garden has a simplified layout, with raised bed planting areas so that they can be easily tended by clients of the centre who were consulted about what they wanted in the garden. The project was managed by Groundwork Thames Valley and the garden was officially opened by the Mayor, Cllr Shirley Harper O'Neill and her escort Cllr Brian Stead.



Photographs of the opening ceremony and the new garden.



4th HILLINGDON BOYS' BRIGADE GETS NEW WHEELS

David Brough formally presented 4th Hillingdon Boys' Brigade with their new bus on 27th September. Hillingdon Community Trust gave a grant of £3,850 to the Brigade towards the new vehicle. The new minibus replaces a 12 year old vehicle that was becoming unreliable and did not meet low emission regulations.

Although the Trust does not normally fund vehicles for groups, the board decided that this was an exceptional case as the group had also raised £2,500 through its own fund raising activity, which was backed by Barclays Bank Community Scheme.



Photograph below shows HCT Chairman David Brough (2nd from left) with members of the 4th Hillingdon Boys Brigade

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Over the last 12 months or so, the Trust has been very conscious of the pressure that the economic recession has put on the local community increasing demand on local voluntary and community groups. It is also clear that many charitable funders have been forced to reduce their funding programmes as returns on investments plummet. These two factors are bound to have a huge impact on groups in our area.

On top of these challenges, cuts in public finance will add to financial pressure on the voluntary and community sector. It is no secret that the squeeze on public spending will affect our own Council and PCT. In order to survive, local groups will have to look at different sources of funding and different methods of operation. There will be more contract arrangements and service level agreements and a move away from traditional grant making by the public sector. Many organisations locally are already operating such arrangements very successfully, but it is inevitable that more will have to move down this route to survive.

These changes are likely to be long term, and I would urge voluntary and community groups in our area to find out more about how local government commissions services and the tendering system. At the same time, it might be necessary to consider working in partnership with other groups with a similar ethos and client group to meet the challenges ahead. HAVS has been working hard to get the local sector "fit for purpose", and bid for contracts and the Trust's new organisational development programme (explained in this newsletter) will help groups to make this progression.

I believe that it is vital, with the current demands being placed on the sector, to look at new forms of funding and new ways of working. The Trust will be keeping under constant review how the economic climate is affecting our community and will use this to shape our grant giving and the way we work with the groups we fund.

David Brough, Chairman HCT

RECENT GRANTS AWARDED BY THE TRUST

The Board made the following grant awards in July & October 2009.

ORGANISATION AND PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Community Cancer Care Continuation and development of services to cancer sufferers and their carers and managing transition when project funding ends.	£26,000
Act for Change Educating youth in social action in Chantry Special Needs College and the mainstream schools with which it has strong ties.	£24,000 over 3 years
Hayes FM Film and Media To run a series of music and arts events in studio, across venues over 1 year plus support artist promotion.	£30,000
Crane Youth & Community Association To support residents in the Pinkwell ward running the community centre in Fullers Way.	£500
Hillingdon Play Association Stay and play at Barra Hall Tea Hut and Cowley Rec.	£2,250
Older Tenants Forum To provide a programme of gentle chair exercises, hand massage and reflexology at Mabel Evetts Court Sheltered Unit.	£2,000
Hillingdon Asian Women's Group To purchase a photocopier to provide copies of educational materials to women who undergo various employment and skills training.	£500
Harlington Football Club To enable Harlington FC to keep its status as a 'charter standard' club	£2,727
British Waterways Hayes Waterside – preliminary work including plans for improvements to moorings on the Grand Union Canal at Hayes Town Centre	£7,500

DEADLINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

- **Wednesday 6th January 2010**
(for Board meeting on Tuesday 2nd February 2010)
- **Wednesday 23rd February 2010**
(for Board meeting on Tuesday 23rd March 2010)
- **Wednesday 14th April 2010**
(for Board meeting on Tuesday 11th May 2010)

RECENTLY COMPLETED HCT FUNDED PROJECTS

HARLINGTON LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY

A small grant of £1,107 has added to the improvements funded by the Trust enabling the organisation to continue to offer a unique recreational facility to all members of the public in an area that is lacking recreational amenities.

Since the first grant was awarded in 2004 for the clubhouse extension, the visitor numbers have increased from a recorded 2,000 to 3,000 visitors

per year and the organisation has also been assisted in their sustainability by increasing their income through offering the facilities to hold children's parties.

Harlington Locomotive also regularly hold a charity open day, donating the proceeds to Diabetic Care at Hillingdon Hospital.



FRIENDS OF MEADOW HIGH SCHOOL

This small grant of £7,500 has extended the range of PE options Meadow High School can offer students and shown that they can all participate in exercise together. It has allowed students to be more independent and responsible for planning and organising their own exercise.



Hillingdon Community Trust

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