

BEESTON & HOLBECK WARD – COMMUNITY FIRST

Community First is an £80 million Government funded programme which will run for 4 years (up to March 2015) providing small grants from £250 up to £2,500 to community groups in this area. A panel of local people and councillors has been established in order to consider applications.

The programme is designed to help communities come together and identify their strengths and priorities in order to plan for the future and become more resilient.

The Beeston & Holbeck Ward has been awarded £152,595 from the fund over the next four years - £25,308 for Round 1, £38,202 for Round 2, £38,195 for Round 3 and £50,890 for Round 4.

The aims for Beeston & Holbeck include:-

- Supporting local projects that improve the quality of life for local people
- Promoting a sense of ownership not only of problems but of local opportunities and resources too
- Starting more neighbourhood groups and revitalising existing groups
- Introducing a new approach to funding projects – leveraging time, money and other resources – helping neighbourhoods play a leading role in regenerating their area

The priorities for Beeston & Holbeck include:-

- Increasing the number and variety of activities for all members of the community (children and young people, families and older people)
- Improving the local environment
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Building the aspirations and opportunities for members of the local communities
- Increasing skills to enable local people to take up work opportunities
- Strengthening existing groups, encouraging the development of new groups in the ward and fostering greater co-operation between groups by strengthening their infrastructure and developing their capacity to increase active citizenship

The outcomes for Beeston & Holbeck include:-

- Communities being able to help themselves and others
- Neighbourhood groups that are better able to express their needs and influence decisions made about that community
- Neighbourhood groups that are better able to take control of resources needed to make a difference, enhancing confidence; capability and partnership.

The members of the panel are currently:-

- Councillor Adam Ogilvie
- Councillor Angela Gabriel
- Ian Pickup – Voice of Holbeck
- Jude Smith – Cottingley Church
- Christine Thornton – Beeston Forum
- Yvonne Crowther – Cardinals Youth project
- Gerald Jennings – Land Securities

The Panel Partner is Pat McGeever, Health for All.

The panel has met several times, most recently on 21st May and then a further meeting on 28th May 2012.

27 proposals were received and out of these the Panel recommended 21 proposals. A total of £35,802 was allocated which leaves £27,506 to be allocated at two further meetings to be held this financial year.

The next meeting will be held on 3rd September 2012.

Proposals supported include environmental improvements, activities for young people, healthy lifestyle programmes for older people, women, families, carers, disabled children and contributions towards improvement of facilities in community centres used by large numbers of groups.

Proposals which the Panel decided not to support included those from large organisations wishing to establish volunteering schemes which had minimal involvement from local people in the development of the proposal.

Celebration events and events to inform groups of other funding streams will be organised in the Autumn.

CITY & HUNSLET WARD – COMMUNITY FIRST

Community First is an £80 million Government funded programme which will run for 4 years (up to March 2015) providing small grants from £250 up to £2,500 to community groups in this area. A panel of local people and councillors has been established in order to consider applications.

The programme is designed to help communities come together and identify their strengths and priorities in order to plan for the future and become more resilient.

The City & Hunslet Ward has been awarded £237,370 from the fund over the next four years - £39,368 for Round 1, £59,426 for Round 2, £59,414 for Round 3 and £79,163 for Round 4.

The aims for City & Hunslet include:-

- Supporting local projects that improve the quality of life for local people
- Promoting a sense of ownership not only of problems but of local opportunities and resources too
- Starting more neighbourhood groups and revitalising existing groups
- Introducing a new approach to funding projects – leveraging time, money and other resources – helping neighbourhoods play a leading role in regenerating their area

The priorities for City & Hunslet include:-

- Improving the local environment
- Increasing support and activities for older people
- Improving health and increasing physical activities for the community
- Increasing and improving the number and variety of activities for young people and children
- Developing the aspirations and skills of local people to enable them to have more prospect of improving their work opportunities

The outcomes for City & Hunslet include:-

- Communities being able to help themselves and others
- Neighbourhood groups that are better able to express their needs and influence decisions made about that community
- Neighbourhood groups that are better able to take control of resources needed to make a difference, enhancing confidence; capability and partnership.

The members of the panel are currently:-

- Councillor Mohammed Iqbal

- Councillor Patrick Davey
- Patricia Jackson – Hunslet Tenants & Residents Association
- Vivienne Bates – Beeston In Bloom
- Hanif Malik – Hamara
- Mahboob Nazir – Hardy Street Mosque
- Dennis Robins – Hunslet Club

The Panel Partner is Pat McGeever, Health for All.

The panel has met several times, most recently on 22nd May 2012. A further meeting is scheduled for 13th June 2012 because the Panel did not allocate the full sum of £39,368 which is available in Year One. This amount must be agreed and recommended to CDF at national level by end of June 2012 or we will lose that money. Approx two thirds of that sum was successfully allocated.

The proposals supported included activities, events and programmes run by volunteer led community and support groups, environmental groups, older people, women, young people. The proposals not supported were those from large organisations which appeared to request subsidies for groups to use their facilities or services. This is not what the grants are for so we will be feeding back to those organisations that if volunteer led groups approach the Panel for assistance to use their services, and those services are of benefit to the community, then they will be reconsidered.

Panel members volunteered to encourage more applications from small groups in the Hunslet area eg tenants and residents' groups, community and self help groups.

A fuller report will be available following the additional meeting on 13th June 2012.

MIDDLETON PARK WARD – COMMUNITY FIRST

About Community First

The Community First programme aims to support local projects which promote a sense of community ownership and action. The grants, ranging from £250 to £2,500, are designed to help small groups and voluntary organisations to help themselves and others in their communities.

Each ward receiving Community First funding has had to set up a panel of local elected members and representatives of local community groups and organisations which receive proposals from groups. The panel meets regularly to discuss proposals and if the Panel members feel the proposal fits the aims of the programme and will bring benefit to the local community, then the proposal is recommended to a national organisation called CDF – the Community Development Foundation. CDF hold the funds and make the final decision regarding whether a proposal is accepted. CDF then makes direct contact with the successful applicant and takes details of their bank account, numbers of volunteers etc. Each proposal needs to be match funded by either cash or volunteer time. The forms are fairly straightforward to complete but some groups have needed help with them.

It has also become clear that, for a group to be able to accept a grant from CDF, then they need to have an email address so some groups may need help in setting up one.

Each panel has had to establish a website. The three inner south panels have websites linked to the South Leeds Life website. Details on panel membership, the priorities chosen by the panel and details of meetings, decisions, projects etc all need to be kept up to date on the website.

Middleton Park Community First

The programme runs over 4 years and started in April 2011 so we are now in the second year. The funding available for Middleton Park Ward is £118,685 over the 4 years. The priorities for Middleton Park ward are:

- Promoting a safe Environment
- Increasing the number and variety of activities for children and young people
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Encouraging community groups to develop and thrive
- Enhancing the quality of life for older people

The members of the panel are currently:

- Councillor Judith Blake
- Councillor Kim Groves
- Geoff Byers (Manorfield Hall)
- Al Henry (Middleton Methodist Church)
- Lynne Morgan (Westwood Community Association)
- Pat McGeever (Health for All – Panel Partner)

The Panel Partner is the contact with CDF and ensures the meetings are held, ensures that the administration is efficient and that the projects are recommended when decisions are made and ensures that details on the website are kept updated. There is very little in the funding to support administration costs but there is some for room hire, travel expenses for Panel members etc.

There should be between 4 and 8 members of the Panel. Lisa Huntley from Renew was until recently on and supporting the panel but has now left so there are several vacant place on the panel for representatives of local community groups or organisations. Is there any area or community of interest not represented?

Action so far

The panel has met several times, most recently on 9th May 2012.

Information regarding the programme was distributed through a variety of sources and fifteen completed applications were received. Before the meeting, several groups requested assistance with completion of the forms so we organised a Drop In at Tenants Hall which was well attended. We have also given assistance and advice to other groups who were unable to attend that event.

Understanding the programme...

Most applicants understood the programme's aims – ie to offer small grants to small community and self help groups for activities or events or work that is genuinely match funded by volunteer time. There were some applications from groups to 'buy in' or commission other organisations to organise events for them and also some applications from larger, more established organisations to support or create posts or run schemes. The panel did not accept applications to create substantial posts – that is not what these grants are for. In the case of a larger organisation wishing to organise activities or events in line with the aims of the programme, we are

suggesting that the applicant revise their proposal to fit better with the aims and spirit of the scheme – perhaps by establishing a new user group of beneficiaries and encouraging them to make the application.

At the Panel Meeting...

Of the 15 applications :

Several were from large organisations to part fund substantial posts or to subsidise trips to their centres so these were not recommended.

Most were from local grassroots groups for a variety of activities or schemes eg for children, young people, families – these were recommended.

Some were for activities that would definitely benefit the community but were from organisations so we are going back to these saying that we want to support the activity but the application needs to come from eg a group of young people or a group of older people – that is one of the prime aims of the grants scheme – to help people do things for themselves rather than doing things for people. This is an opportunity for new community and self help groups to be set up and for organisations to work in a different, enabling way – if they are not already doing so!!

The sum of £19,684 was 'spent' ie recommended and there is now the sum of £29,713 for the second year available. Details of the successful applications will be on the website when all applicants have been informed.

Nest Steps...

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 25th July at Manorfield Hall.

It would be good if more small community groups were informed of the programme, particularly those in Belle Isle – applications were under represented in this first round.

We would welcome suggestions as to how we can spread the word – perhaps another Drop In event? All of the information is available on the website but not everyone is on line as we know. It seems to be a very useful and even exciting scheme – there will be the potential at some stage to bring community groups together to meet others and celebrate their work.