

MORLEY SOUTH – 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 Morley South Ward has been awarded £33,910 from the fund over the next four years. £5,624 in Year One, £8,489 in Year 2, £8,488 in Year three and £11,309 in Year 4.

The priorities for Morley South include:-

- Improving the environment – a local park or green space
- Increasing the range of activities available for young people and families
- Increasing support for vulnerable people of all ages
- Improving the health of inhabitants of the ward
- Bringing different communities within the ward closer together through events etc.
- Supporting the improvement of premises used for community use

The members of the panel are currently:-

- Nancy Fawcett – Local resident and Morley Rugby Club
- Steven Holt – Local resident and Morley Amateur Operatic Society
- Shirley Varley – Elected Ward Member and St Mary's In The Wood
- Wyn Kidger – Local resident
- Keith Robinson – Morley Chamber of Trade & Commerce (resigned)
- Judith Elliott - Elected Ward Member
- Christine Hirst – Local resident
- Pat McGeever – Panel Partner, Health for All

The panel has met several times, most recently on 29th May, 2012. A drop in session was organised on 16th April at Morley Town Hall to assist groups with completion their application forms.

Eleven applications have been received and out of these the Panel agreed to recommend nine proposals. These included improvements to community facilities used by large numbers of community groups, equipment for activities for young people and older people, events. The Panel did not support several proposals for one off trips or events or proposals with no or very little volunteer involvement.

The total for Years 1 and 2 amounted to £14,113. The money allocated so far towards the above successful applications is £10,922, leaving the sum of £3,191 to

be allocated at the next meeting on 6th November 2012. Details of the successful applications will be on the website very shortly.

The Panel discussed holding a celebration event for groups to showcase their activities and celebrate their successes and considered producing a colourful magazine similar to South Leeds Life to promote the groups and the Panel members including elected members.