

Mains Grant Funding Appeal

20th March 2019

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the lack of content in our main grants application. I feel it is fair to mention that not only was I recovering from weeks of illness, but that my entire family suffered with a norovirus throughout the time I was completing the application. I am also dyslexic and find such forms exceptionally challenging to answer; usually I would enlist the help of others to support me but due to illness I was unable to obtain the level of contact required.

It was exceedingly difficult to fit our circumstances into the form; it appeared to be written to cope with an individual, specific topic. Nevertheless, I appreciate the opportunity to elaborate on particular areas of the application that were lacking in detail; I hope that this summarises our request to be better understood, whilst highlighting how valuable our organisation is to the local (and wider) community.

In short, the issue we intended to address was focused mainly on the sheer volumes of local community members who seek our support. We accommodate the many, not few; those who are vulnerable, isolated and alone who have nobody else to turn to for help, in addition to those seeking to build new friendships and gain confidence and acceptance amongst their fellow community members.

Unfortunately for our organisation, it does not pay to care. Therefore we rely on methods (through schemes highlighted in our business plan, grants and fundraising) to generate income to pay for our spaces/building where we can deliver these services that are in such high demand.

The majority of our (staff & volunteers) time is taken up with offering support to those who wouldn't otherwise have somewhere to go or someone to turn to. Therefore generating income is not prioritised and this is why we apply for funding towards our running costs.

Ultimately, should we receive the funding requested; it could be used to alleviate a percentage of our building and staff costs. This would then enable us to not only continue our services but buy us some time to explore ways in which to become fully sustainable in the future. The needs of the community are ever changing and we endeavour to find long term solutions to adapt to these, without the need to rely on funding.

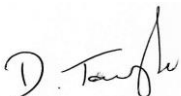
We do not foresee the need for funding indefinitely. By relieving some of our financial burden, we could focus time and resources towards engaging even more with the local and wider community. There are many organisation who are already well established, offering support and advice – we could enlist their help by offering free space in our buildings for them to host events/workshops then in turn they could relieve our staff and volunteers so that over time they can concentrate on creating more income channels.

Even throughout a few difficult years regarding staff sickness, lack of confidence in our board of directors and relentless building repairs – we have maintained a valuable service to the community.

We are constantly expanding our already wide-ranging organisation and we are very excited for the future. I predict that with new board members and our consistently enthusiastic staff and volunteers, 2019 will see the most positive turn around with fresh ideas, new partnerships and a wider reach across the community.

I would like to take the opportunity to talk at the meeting on the 27th March 2019

Kindest Regards



Darren Taylor