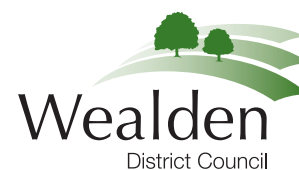


Community grants and voluntary sector support

NEWSLETTER



Wealden Support for the Community and Voluntary Sector



I am Michelle Eldridge, part of the Public Health and Community Development Team, and as Grant Funding and Voluntary Sector Support Officer, I can help third sector organisations, and Town and Parish Councils in the following ways:

- Securing external funding and helping with long-term sustainability
- Assisting with knowledge and experience of specific projects or groups

- Advising on initiatives such as the Compact and Social Impact Measurement
- Knowledge sharing with a wide range of partners, including the Statutory Sector Funders' Group, 3VA, the local Council for voluntary service, the Local Strategic Partnership, Volunteer Centre East Sussex and Wealden's Corporate Funding Group, which ensures that information is shared usefully amongst the Council's staff.

I also co-ordinate Wealden's own Community Grants programme, which this year made the following awards:

| Organisation: | Project: | Award Amount: |
|--|--|---------------|
| EAST SUSSEX ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND (ESAB) | To help with running costs for a blind and partially sighted bowls team and to increase the catchment, especially to rural areas. | £500 |
| FREEDOM ON WHEELS | This group is concerned with the socialisation and well-being for people with disabilities and has been given funding towards transportation. | £550 |
| HEATHFIELD PARK CRICKET CLUB | To purchase equipment for 100 juniors 8-16 yrs. They are expanding the club and leasing extra field space, and the equipment will provide long-term benefit of many youngsters. | £500 |
| LAUGHTON PARISH HALL | This is part of a very large project to upgrade the hall and is for the phase which involves refurbishing the kitchen. | £985 |
| MAYFIELD OFF YEAR FRINGE FESTIVAL | This is the first year of a fringe festival which will alternate with the established biannual Mayfield Festival, aiming to involve the whole community in workshops and performances. | £500 |
| PEVENSEY & WESTHAM SPORTS CLUB | To provide equipment and upgrade the showers. | £750 |
| Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (SASBAH) | This project is for wheelchair dancing and 'grow your own' gardening, to enhance activity and skills. | £650 |

| Organisation: | Project: | Award Amount: |
|--|---|---------------|
| THE COMPANY | This theatre group will give 4 conservation-based performances at Broadwater Warren, in conjunction with the RSPB. A day long event will also be provided for SASBAH with a performance and drama workshop. | £845 |
| UCKFIELD AIR CADETS | This is to help fund the costs of training and a new projector. | £774 |
| UCKFIELD FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION | A 10 day Community arts celebration festival which will bring the community together | £500 |
| WEALDEN STEP FORWARD CLUB | For boccia, socialising and physiotherapy sessions for those who have had strokes, and their carers. | £1,000 |
| WESTHAM & PEVENSEY LOCAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP | To fund a training course for one of the volunteer drivers, enabling training to be cascaded to other volunteers within the partnership. | £500 |
| East Hoathly Village Hall | For the replacement of external cladding, replacing the fire doors & boiler. | £5,862 |
| Five Ashes Village Hall & Memorial Playing Field Trust | Open space development – draining and levelling of the pitches. | £10,000 |
| Maresfield Village Hall | To refurbish the floor of the village hall. | £8,298 |

The London Olympic Torch relay – Nominations are open!

The London Olympics torch relay begins on 19 May 2012 at Land's End and ends 70 days later at the opening ceremony in the Olympic Stadium. The route, which covers every nation and region in the UK and includes island visits, will see the Olympic torch travel 8,000 miles (12,800 km). Organisers stress the route details are not comprehensive and more places to be visited will be named in coming months

The flame will be carried by 8000 'inspirational' torchbearers, 7200 of whom will be members of the public, nominated by people who know them. Half of the torchbearer places are expected to go to people aged between 12 and 24 years of age "who are considered leading lights in their local communities," said Locog, which has launched a nominations website at: www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/

Perhaps you know a local volunteer or member of the community who devotes a significant amount of time and energy to helping their local sports group, or fundraising to improve facilities for example. Or maybe you know a young person who has overcome personal barriers to excel in sport, or tries their hardest week after week at their local sports club. If you want to nominate someone to carry the torch, follow the nominations website link above.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Locog) said the Olympic flame would come within a one-hour journey of 95% of people in the UK, and they are confident they are well on their way to achieving that target.



Volunteers Week 1st-7th June

I am attending the event to celebrate National Volunteers' Week and promote volunteering opportunities across the county on Saturday June 4th at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill, hosted by Volunteer Centre East Sussex.

It will be an opportunity to talk to Volunteer Centre staff about the volunteering element of your organisation, and find out more about the services that the Centre provides regarding the recruitment, support and management of your volunteers. If you cannot make the event, the Wealden Volunteering Support Officer's details are as follows:

Brenda Bruzon Email:
Brenda.Bruzon@vces.org.uk
Tel: 01323-301757.

More information about services can also be found at www.vces.org.uk.

Volunteer Centre East Sussex offers a wide range of support services to any groups or organisations that engage volunteers, including:

- Brokerage
- Marketing
- One-to-one support sessions

- Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forums
- Events
- Campaigning and advocacy
- Resources

During Volunteers' Week, Wealden District Council will be launching its own Volunteer Awards Scheme, which will give organisations the opportunity to nominate volunteers for a certificate of recognition. There will be different categories – further details will be released during Volunteer Week.

Would your organisation benefit from some extra volunteers?

Volunteering is specifically mentioned in Wealden's Corporate Plan and the government's volunteering white paper is a major element of the Big Society. We now have a question on our Grant Application form about levels of volunteering, and we are encouraging groups to keep records of volunteer time. Many volunteers do not realise that what they do has such value to the community, or don't see themselves as volunteers



at all. We are also finding out some information about the staff at Wealden who already volunteer in their community, with a view to encouraging other staff and Councillors to get involved.

If you have some specific events going on in which a volunteer could get involved, such as washing up, making tea and coffee, administration, note taking etc please let me know.

We are keen to give those considering voluntary work a taste of what it would involve, and the rewards of helping.

If you also require longer-term volunteers in your organisation, please let me know, and I will advertise the opportunity amongst staff and Councillors.

Uckfield & District (Ridgewood) Short Mat Bowling Club Monitoring Visit



As part of the Wealden Community Grants programme, I carry out monitoring visits to many of the organisations which have received a grant. In 2010, Uckfield & District (Ridgewood) Short Mat Bowling Club was awarded £966 to replace equipment at this successful club. I attended one of their excellent sessions, and was very impressed by the level of skill and activity, as well as the social side of the group which is so important for health and well-being. Stuart Jones, the Club Secretary gave me the honour of presenting the awards from their last tournament. He also proposed that the old equipment which was being replaced should be passed onto another Wealden group which is considering beginning a local short mat bowling team. This was enthusiastically seconded by all the members. I am very grateful to Stuart and the rest of the group for welcoming me so warmly and for their thoughtful gesture.

East Sussex Credit Union Drop In Sessions

The East Sussex Credit Union is a not for profit, community savings and loan co-operative helping its members – all local people – to save, budget and obtain access to affordable loans of between £500 and £5000. Many of its members want to borrow sums which are too small to be of interest to the big banks, indeed they may not even have a bank account. Their loans often prevent members from falling into the hands of loan sharks.

The Credit Union now has the following drop in points in Wealden (no appointment necessary):

Crowborough Citizens Advice Bureau, Croft Road, Thorpe House, TN6 1DL – Each Tuesday 1pm-3pm

NEW Hailsham Citizens Advice Bureau, Southview, Western Road (next to library), Hailsham BN27 3DN – Each Wednesday 12noon-3pm

NEW Uckfield Citizens Advice Bureau, The Hub, Civic Approach, Uckfield, TN22 1AL – Each Thursday 10am-1pm

The Credit Union also needs local people who are prepared to invest in their community. The funds it has available to lend are the savings of other members of the credit union.

Could you be a saver with us? Your money is protected by the Financial Services Authority in exactly the same way as if you deposited it with a high street bank. You can invest up to £10,000. Interest is not paid but all members can vote at the AGM on whether to declare a dividend related to the amount of your savings. You can withdraw your funds whenever you choose but while they remain in your credit union account, you can rest assured that it will work helping people in your neighbourhood.

For further details, please contact:
Community Advocate Marta: Tel: (01273) 234858
Mob: 07984449310
Email: info@credit-union.org.uk or marta@credit-union.org.uk
www.credit-union.org.uk or www.eastsussexcu.org.uk

3VA – The local Council for Voluntary Services (CVS)

3VA provides services and support to develop the local voluntary and community sector. These services are vital in helping new groups start up and supporting existing groups to grow, become sustainable, take on new work and to have a voice locally. 3VA can offer information and support to groups regarding constitutions, charitable status, equal opportunities, funding and fundraising, and managing money.

3VA encourages many partners to work with the local voluntary and community sector, and will do everything possible to support this.

Please feel free to contact:
info@3va.org.uk



For further information about help with any element of community groups or organisations in your area, please contact:

Michelle Eldridge, Grant Funding and Voluntary Sector Support Officer,
Community Services,
Wealden District Council

Email: communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk
Tel: (01323) 443520

If you, or somebody you know, would like the information contained in this document in large print, Braille, tape/CD or in another language please contact Wealden District Council on 01323 443322 or info@wealden.gov.uk