

Clerk

From: Nicola Davidson <nicola.davidson@communityenergysouth.org>
Sent: 20 December 2022 15:36
To: Clerk
Cc: Ollie Pendered; Esme Donghi
Subject: Request for funding from Cranleigh PC
Attachments: Tollesbury (TCP) One Year on.pdf

Hello Beverley

I hope all is well.

Topic: I'm writing to see if the PC has funds to pay for the climate group to employ somebody temporarily.

Following the Low Carbon Cranleigh event on 3rd Dec I have met with the Cranleigh Climate Action Group (CCAG) (Sharon Duggan, Alice Breeveld, Lynda MacDermott and Samantha Oates). It has been an aim of CES since working with you, that we help open up the PC's options for funding and effective delivery of your low carbon project and nurturing community engagement and development will be key to this regardless of who/how the funds are raised.

Yesterday myself and the 4 group members explored the opportunity to grow CCAG into a more substantial body which becomes much more visible to the Cranleigh community. This involved a review of similar groups which have a strong focus on community energy. I've attached an example of the Tollesbury group in Essex which we helped form and have nurtured for the last 2 years. The CCAG particularly like this inclusive example and the journey they've taken. Perhaps Cranleigh can replicate it with our help. We are contracted with Surrey CC until end March and hope to extend this.

Growing the CCAG will be to both align with the outputs of the PC low carbon study and other sustainability opportunities as chosen by the community.

The route to achieving this growth, alignment and presence is hoped to be:

1. Secure funds for: 1) a part-time employee for c.12 months to be present in a currently empty high street shop, to engage residents in CCAG activities and the low carbon project, and grow the groups capacity; 2) display materials and leaflets to explain the PC feasibility study and invite interaction with the community in general on other strands of sustainability. We hope to secure free empty shop space on a roaming basis.
2. Grow the group's strategy and action plan (to include energy saving).
3. Secure funds to grow a domestic energy advice project: we call this Energy Champions, and are currently nurturing other groups in Spelthorne, Redhill and Guildford to do this through a range of upskilling, thermal imaging, draught-busting and energy saving giveaways.
4. Network with peers in Surrey and beyond, through my team at CES
5. Incorporate as a CIO and perhaps a Community Benefit Society in the long term.

I will help with as much of this as time allows.

In the meantime, could the PC provide funds to pay for c.9-12 months of the part-time employee plus display materials, perhaps from the RCEF budget? We anticipate this would be on a self-employed basis so wouldn't necessarily involve payroll/NI. CCAG are keen to manage the employee directly but your advice will be most welcome.

Once CCAG has registered as a charity and gains a bank account (approx. 3 months) they will be able to seek funding themselves (which could take a further 4- 6 months).

In terms of timing, it's pretty urgent since I can't guarantee my support long-term. Further, there is a chance for the employee to gain free training in Guildford on 28th Jan through the wider work I'm doing, plus a place on a Level 3 Energy Awareness & Advice locally.

Thanks for considering and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best

Nicola Davidson MCIOF (Dip)

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