



**South Northamptonshire VCS Forum  
10am, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at Milton Malsor Village Hall**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Phil Drage of the Weston Community Project and Forum Chair welcomed everyone and gave an introduction to the Forum meeting which is facilitated by snvb. Phil also made everyone aware that photos would be taken throughout the morning.

Phil introduced the new County-wide Forum Development Worker, Nicola Crawley. Nicola is Paul Battye's replacement and is still very new in post.

Round robin introductions.

**'First Steps in Finding Funding' Presentation by James Kirkpatrick**

Handouts were provided by James who has previously worked for the Big Lottery across the East Midlands and London, as well as for Children Need as an assessor. More recently he has worked for East Midlands Funding Forum and is now a freelance funding support worker.

James emphasised the need to think about what the funder wants from you and how they see your organisation.

At the end of the presentation, James answered questions:

- Not all funders will provide feedback. Every funder is different in the way that they deal with applications, so read their Guidance Notes carefully at the outset.
- Finding the 'right' funder is key to success. It will involve quite a lot of reading a research in order to identify an appropriate shortlist, but a list of 2-3 serious contenders is better than a list of 25-30 that you might be wasting your time with. Make specific and dedicated applications to the 'right' funders whose criteria you meet in every way.
- Funders don't want to set organisations up to fail, so if you're applying for 75% of a total project cost, they will want to know where the remaining 25% is coming from. There is also something of a domino effect with including information about match funding and timescales.
- In kind contributions value will differ amongst funders but generally cannot be included within the budget. It can be classed as 'match funding' and for some funders, it further goes to demonstrate the level of support for the project.

**Community Information Exchange**

Barron Walton from snvb introduced the community information exchange inviting people to share their successes, concerns or problems with others present:

Towcester U3A have just started up but are seeing a dramatic increase in membership already. They meet monthly in the afternoon of the last Wednesday of the month in Towcester Town Hall, but individual interest groups then meet separately at varying timescales and locations. The next meeting is at 2pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July at Towcester Town Hall. It will feature a presentation about 'Life of a Roman Lady' and is free to all members or £2 to guests.

Milton Malsor History Society was praised for its success within the village, attracting 40 – 50 people at each meeting.

Health Walks in Weston attract a regular attendance of approx 20 people who then stop for coffee afterwards creating a sense of community and attracting more people to this community 'hub' which is helping to combat issues such as rural isolation.

Nick King promoted snvb meeting rooms available to hire at reasonable rates for community groups.

Discussions led onto farm/community shops, post offices, the need for basic amenities to remain within our rural villages to support the elderly in particular. Access to transport was also mentioned which prompted mention of JASON, the community transport available in the area.

Discussions then turned to how best engage with the youth and get them involved in local village organizations as members and then to take over/be on the committee. Suggestions included looking at the way time and places that group meetings are held to make them more appealing. This is also an issue that is being considered by the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Northants Volunteer Youth Action (NVYA) offer accreditation to youngsters for volunteering which looks good on their CVs and when applying to UCAS etc so suggests approaching schools.

It was also suggested that despite the general dislike within the Forum, it would be beneficial to use the same methods of communication as youngsters, such as Facebook and Twitter. Other intergenerational projects were also mentioned including snvb's School of Life project.

### **PCSO Jen Harrison – Community Policing**

Jen detailed the coverage of the Safer Community Team (SCT) and their work. As a PCSO she is a community worker rather than a police officer, so is looking at issues that directly affect the community. They work closely with Neighbourhood Watch groups, schools and parish councils.

Community Panel meetings are held in 5 locations across the district every 3 months where the SCT update the attendees on their work, local incidences and the locally identified priorities. These priorities are obtained from local residents through their interaction. The next community panel meetings are due to be held in September.

They also work with community groups and can tell the control room that they're unavailable to attend incidences; gather intelligence, especially regarding anti-social behavior and work on crime prevention initiatives.

Jen and her colleague, PC Michael Wallace, suggested that the school councils might be a good way of linking in to the youth from groups/parish councils.

Similarly, the suggestion was made to take the Forum meeting into a school.

Nick King mentioned "The Bus" project that runs in the area where a double decker bus is kitted out with games, computer consoles etc and can be hired at reasonable rates. Please contact Nick for further information/contact details for the manager, Barry Owen.

Phil Drage asked whether the Police were facing any funding cuts following the change in Government etc. Apparently, cuts are already in effect, with no overtime available for the Police Force and they will just have to wait to see if there are likely to be any more.

A request was also made to make a plea to involve more youth with Silverstone (as they are involved at Wimbledon for example).

### **Dates of Future Meetings**

The advertised date of 20<sup>th</sup> October for the next Forum meeting will be postponed until after the major funding review by SNC. Therefore, attendees were encouraged to ensure they had left their contact details so that the new date (and potentially new venue) could be circulated nearer the time.

Barron Walton also promoted the Forum Development Group on the back of various suggestions for future meeting topics and locations made throughout this Forum meeting. The next Development Group meeting will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 3:30pm at snvb, Moat Lane, Towcester.

Phil thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed.

(Additional networking took place as the Village Hall was cleared.)