

Report for Clifton upon Teme meeting – Thursday 4th June 2020

Dear Councillors,

I do hope everyone is keeping safe and well? I have copied a few details for your perusal:

Good news for members of Malvern Hills Good Neighbour Network: We are offering all schemes signed up to the network free access to our Spacehive crowdfunding platform, People Make Places Fund, to unlock and raise funds to support the sustainability of your community group. The People Make Places Fund launched on Monday 1st June, and we encourage you to submit a crowdfunding application as soon as possible.

Supporting our communities to respond to the coronavirus pandemic is not just about dealing with the immediate crisis. It also requires a long-term commitment to helping our residents and businesses recover from the impact of the virus. Helping our local economy and our communities to rebuild is important to our overall recovery plan, link <https://www.malvernhillsgov.uk/community/coronavirus-covid-19-update>.

We want to get behind projects that have the support of the community and make a positive difference and we believe that the Good Neighbour Network is a key part of this. We have pre-selected some groups and organisations that we know are providing important services and support and would benefit from additional financial help to allow them to continue their vital work.

To support you to reach your target, Malvern Hills District Council will pledge up to 50% to each group, funding a maximum of £200. The remaining funds will need to be pledged by members of the community and other interested funders, over a six week period unless the total is reached sooner. You will receive support from both Malvern Hills District Council and Spacehive to generate interest and access other sources of funding.

As an example, raised funds could cover:

Annual phone contract - £72

Phone purchase - £10

DBS checks for eight volunteers @ £30 - £240

Stationery / publicity - £50

Promotional materials - £150

Total: £522

To fill out an expression of interest form, please click <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSepuoJkpXTORUXDbJfbazhZ3AAL6yZpfnaRNiu0eRaNiHLMew/viewform> You will need to submit this by Monday 15 June. If successful, your crowdfund will be live shortly afterwards and will run until 31 July.

If you have any questions, please email Sophie Jackson at Sophie.Jackson@malvernhillsgov.uk

I received an email from Malcolm Thompson, a trustee of NILS (No interest Loan Scheme), which is a small charity registered in 2013 covering Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire that provides zero-interest loans and/or grants for people experiencing acute financial problems. The vision is "To replace unethical loan sources that target the most vulnerable in our communities", within which group we include victims of crime and ex-offenders. We do not provide cash sums to individuals: we purchase essential items on their behalf direct from local suppliers, having first assessed whether they are eligible for a loan or a grant which depends upon their circumstances, and their situation: many want a "hand up" in the form of a small loan repayable over a period up to 2 years which gives them a sense of control and improves their self-confidence, while some qualify for a "hand out" due to their immediate financial distress.

NILS has recently been awarded Community Grant Partner status by the Smallwood Trust and funds to support single women, with or without dependants, across the 3 counties, and can fund essential household items to the value of £400 such as washing machines, cookers, fridges etc., or support for entry into work including funding training and travel.

Although NILS does respond to self-referrals, they prefer to work with colleagues in partner agencies. Mr Thomas has asked if local organisations could you promote the scheme via the website link. <https://nils.org.uk/>

Small Business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Update: More than £14.35million in grant money has been given to businesses across the Malvern Hills District to support them through the coronavirus outbreak. Grants of either £10,000 or £25,000 have been sent to almost 1300 eligible businesses across the District in the past month.

We are still urging eligible businesses affected by the pandemic, if they haven't already, to register online <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/business-rates-in-malvern-hills/reductions> so grants can be paid quickly.

A range of business support measures have been made available to UK businesses and employees. To see the latest updates on Government support, visit their dedicated Coronavirus Business Support Hub. <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/>

Visit the Malvern Hills website <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/> to sign up for the latest email alerts for business during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Business Support Finder: Coronavirus (COVID-19) support is available to employers and the self-employed. You may be eligible for loans, tax relief and cash grants. To help you find out what may be available to you, use the Government based business support finder. <https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder/y>

In case you were not aware, Tenbury Household Recycling Centre is now open. Days and times are:

Thursday 8.00 – 18.00

Saturday 8.00 – 18.00

Queuing is expected.

Here 2 Help reminder: If you are aware of anyone who is vulnerable and in need, please make sure they fill in the form or call the number on the <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>.

Worcestershire Community Foundation Covid-19 Response Fund: The Worcestershire Community Foundation (WCF) Covid-19 Response Fund was launched at the end of March, partnering with the National Emergencies Trust (NET). The Fund provides quick response funding to predominantly smaller charities and community groups which are addressing urgent need in local communities as a result of the Covid crisis.

WCF has received £300,000 from the national fund, and to date given out £250,000 for 93 community projects offering a wide range of support services. These include Age UK H&W, St Paul's Hostel, Malvern Cube, Evesham Volunteer Centre, St Richard's Hospice and more.

WCF has launched its own local fund, with donations from local people, trusts and organisations. To date this has raised nearly £20,000, with all funding given directly to the people who need it with no fees being taken

Visit www.worcscf.org.uk/ or follow WCF on Twitter (@WorcsGiving).

Take care all.

Caroline

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