

St George Neighbourhood Partnership

Fundraising Consultant – Report



At its meeting in June 2015 the St George Neighbourhood Partnership agreed to support the proposal to commission a fundraising consultant to assist Friends of Dundridge Park and Meadow Vale Community Association. A brief was included as appendix 1 to the Business Report for that meeting. £10,000 was allocated.

The aim was to secure match funding for the following local community projects:

A- Meadow Vale Community Centre

B- Meadow Vale Park and

C- Children Play facility for Dundridge Park

Speedwell Nursery School agreed to hold the funds and to pay the successful applicant. A steering group was set up to monitor the appointment process and the ongoing project. This consisted of representatives of both groups, the Neighbourhood Partnership Chair, Cllr Ron Stone and the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

The post was advertised and Vivian Brinsdon appointed to work an average of 2 days per week from October 2015 to June 2016.

The project was extremely successful, with over £160,000 raised and two further applications prepared ready for submission. The applications made can be seen on the attached schedule.

Work on the projects is now underway or due to start soon.

While the expectations of the steering group were exceeded in raising money for the two green spaces, it was not possible to submit any applications for the project to enlarge the Community Centre. This was due to various issues with the restructuring of the association and the need for a Community Asset Transfer.

While no applications were made, Vivian was able to provide advice on future fundraising and the development of the project, so that the project was able to move forward and is now in a better position to apply for funding in the near future.

While this process has shown that employment of a fundraiser can certainly produce great value for money, it is important to note that the projects in this case were largely 'ready to go'. Any groups considering similar appointments need to be sure that the project has been developed to a stage where quotes can be obtained to be submitted with any grant application.

Following the final steering group meeting, Speedwell Nursery notified the NP Co-ordinator of a slight overspend of the original £10,000 allocated to this project. The total cost of the Fundraising Consultant is £10,295.55. The Nursery is not in a position where it could absorb this additional cost and therefore would like the NP to pay for this.

The Neighbourhood Committee is hereby asked to approve proposal summarised in the table shown below:

<u>2016/17 St George NP Budget</u>			<u>£7,178.84</u>
NP Plan Priority Ref: Communication	Activity/Description of works	Amount £	Running Balance £
P1: Activity 2: Support the Meadowvale Community Association management committee to recruit volunteers and increase their capacity.	This is to top up £10,000 funds allocated to the Fundraiser Consultant.	£295.55	
Remaining St George NP Budget			£6,883.29

The Steering Group would like to formally thank Vivian for her work over the past year.

Rob Acton-Campbell

Steering Group Member & St George NP Chair