

`TOGETHER WE CAN' PROJECT - DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION

“What makes Hadlow Down so special.....YOU do!!!”

Proposal -A celebration community event highlighting our village and what each volunteer run charity/organisation does within the village highlighting the urgent need for volunteers to sustain and develop our organisations in Hadlow Down and thereby enable the village to thrive and remain independent.

1. Outline Process:

- 1.1. The PC meet with invited volunteer run village organisations as detailed in (2);
- 1.2. Each organisation completes an application form with plan, timetable and itemised budget for submission to Clerk, Rachel & one other PC representative within 2 weeks of initial organisation meeting;
- 1.3. The Clerk, Rachel & PC representative agree each organisations plans and budgets by looking at the overall budget etc.;
- 1.4. Each organisation invoices the PC for their portion of the money as agreed in (1.3);
- 1.5. The Clerk issues payment to each organisation;
- 1.6. Each organisation must keep a spreadsheet of their expenditure with invoices which must be submitted to the Clerk within 2 weeks of the final event. This must be kept on file as proof of project expenditure.

2. Initial briefing and project planning (February)

Invitees attending introductory meeting facilitated by PC (2 people from each organisation):

- 2.1 EnGage: Denise Leary
- 2.2 Hadlow Down Playing Field: Fiona Shafer
- 2.3 Parish Magazine: Peter Smyth
- 2.4 New Community Centre: Bob Lake
- 2.5 PC: Samantha Weatherill
- 2.6 Village Hall: Jane Griffiths and Sally Blyfield
- 2.7 Church: Janet Tourell
- 2.8 St Mark's School: Head teacher and Wings to Fly
- 2.9 Claude Jessett Trust/Tinkers Park: Ben Floyd
- 2.10 Village Faye Committee?
- 2.11 ONE TABLE SPARE for generic /village volunteering information/ 'selling' & 'registering' table – also film on repeat and all organisations' leaflets plus village leaflets etc.

Volunteers to co-ordinate the printing and making of a DVD would be sought and a draft action planned will be generated from the meeting and circulated for final agreement.

3. Draft Proposal from PC- the event (May)

Each organisation to invite their membership/contacts and bring along a friend/neighbour/new residents. Email all village volunteers; put posters up; advertise in Village Magazine; Village website; Facebook; Twitter (The PC Clerk can co-ordinate/do all this).

Host the event in the Village Hall on a Saturday evening 6-8pm with perhaps:

- Wine Raffle-each organisation donates 2 bottles (1st prize 10 bottles, second prize 6 bottles, 3rd prize 2 bottle);
- Volunteering brief film – 6 mins (we make a local film and do interviews with photo montage or a YouTube one);
- Speakers 3.5 min max for each organisation with stop buzzer;
- Displays;
- Nibbles;
- Music/entertainment;
- A compare for the event;
- Drinks (do we need an alcohol license or if it's a private event is this n/a?).

Invite to the event and Leaflet to all homes- what's available in the village and details for each organisation.

Each organisation to detail:

- What the organisation does in the village;
- What the future holds with and without volunteers;
- The fun a volunteer can have by volunteering;
- What types of volunteering that each organisation needs e.g: admin; accounts; physical work; befriending vulnerable etc.;
- what type of commitment- how often and how long?

Below are some of the reasons people choose to volunteer. For some it provides an opportunity to:

- give something back to an organisation that has impacted on a person's life, either directly or indirectly;
- make a difference to the lives of others;
- help the environment;
- help others less fortunate or without a voice;
- feel valued and part of a team;
- spend quality time away from work or a busy lifestyle;
- gain confidence and self-esteem;

For some, volunteering can be a route to employment, or a chance to try something new which may lead to a career change. From this perspective, volunteering can be a way of:

- gaining new skills, knowledge and experience;
- developing existing skills and knowledge;
- enhancing a CV;
- improving one's employment prospects;
- gaining an accreditation;
- using one's professional skills and knowledge to benefit others (usually described as pro bono).

For others, volunteering appeals because of its social benefits. These include:

- meeting new people and making new friends;
- a chance to socialise;
- getting to know the local community.

Of course this may not achieve what we need. Numbers of volunteers has really worsened since Covid - numbers are significantly less all over the UK. Don't know if this will make any difference but perhaps we need to try.....

Rachel Lewis

January 2022