

TELFORD AND WREKIN
COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
The umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector



END OF YEAR REPORT 2009-2010



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

Background

Telford & Wrekin Council for Voluntary Service was appointed as the local funder of the Grassroots Grants in September 2008. It was one of 149 organisations selected in England.

This is the second year of the Grassroots Grant initiative, from the Office of the Third Sector.

The aims continue to be to distribute grants to small Voluntary Sector organisations. Whilst, raising funds to build an endowment, which could provide a grant fund to continue the support to the community after the project ends.

Approach distributing grants

Telford & Wrekin CVS has developed further its track record of distributing grants. Volunteers, who had received a Grassroots Grant, were recruited to become the Grassroots Grant panel, after a review of the decision making process took place last April (2009).

Each panel member received an induction session, and background information on the Grassroots project, before their first grant panel meeting.

Panel meetings were held monthly between April and September, by which time the money was allocated.

A frequent question at Grab a Grant workshops, is about the panel. The response that the members are voluntary grant recipients, is met with satisfaction. (Judgement by their peers)

We have an established rolling programme of promotional and distribution methods to get information out to the Voluntary Sector.

These included:

- Inserts in the CVS bi-monthly News letter
- Distribution via e-mail networks
- Media briefings
- Presentations at Voluntary forums
- Production and distribution of leaflets
- Development of Grassroots website <http://www.grassroots.tandwcvcs.org.uk>
- Development of monthly Grassroots email newsletter
- “Grab a Grant “ workshops.

The “**Grab a Grant**” workshop format, established in year one continues as a rolling programme.

This is still proving to be the most successful means of getting information out about the Grassroots Grants, and other grants. Members of the VCS now telephone to enquire when the next session in their area will be held.

“Sports Evenings” for the voluntary sports clubs in Telford & Wrekin also continue to offer information about Grassroots Grants.

Grants awarded

Telford and Wrekin CVS distributed 30 Grassroots Grants in the second year of the Grassroots project.

The list of organisations and the amount awarded is below.

S.T.A.B.L.E	TF4 2EY	£2998.12
Edgmond Village Hall	TF10 8JU	£293.25
Trench Friends & Neighbours Club	TF2 7HA	£900.00
Randlay Pensioners Luncheon Club	TF3 1ER	£1392.50
Telford Table Tennis Association	TF10 7HN	£800.00
St. Georges Cricket Club	TF2 9NA	£5000.00
1st Ketley Boys Brigade	TF2 5ZH	£4985.22
The Little Theatre Donnington Society	TF2 7NL	£1350.00
Park Ward Residents Association & Youth Club	TF1 3EW	£600.00
Lilleshall Memorial Hall	TF10 9HD	£4996.12
Ketley Age Concern Day Centre	TF2 6DN	£288.00
Black History Working Group	TF3 1YE	£4000.00
High Ercall Tennis Club	TF1 1HR	£2645.00
Bethal Senior Citizens Club	TF1 2NZ	£4905.00
Edgmond Village Hall	TF10 8JU	£1116.65
Newport Youth Café	TF10 7BH	£829.00
EQUAL Charitable Foundation	TF1 1PE	£5000.00
Coalbrookdale Kids Club	TF8 7NY	£4,984.00
Friendship Centre Shifnal	WV7 3PP	£3,360.00
Stirchley Sheltered Housing Scheme	TF3 1XE	£900.00
Edgmond Senior Citizens Club	TF10 8JL	£525.00
Wellington Local Agenda 21 Group	TF5 0LF	£4,617.60
Newport & District Visually Impaired Persons Assoc	TF10 9JA	£4,865.00
The Bank Community Group	TF4 2LJ	£1,220.00
Ironbridge & Severn Gorge Lions Club	TF4 3SN	£1,800.00
Trench Allotment & Leisure Gardens Society	TF2 7DZ	£2,000.00
Telford Sea Cadets	TF5 0BP	£3,955.52
High Ercall Tennis Club	TF1 1HR	£2,355.00
Telford West Indian Association	TF1 5PA	£5,000.00
Edgmond Senior Citizens Club	TF10 8JU	£1,234.82

Areas of Interest Represented by these grants are:

Elderly.....7
Youth6
Sports.....4
Community buildings.....3
Disabilities.....2
Leisure/Interest.....6
Community Support.....4

13.5% of the groups supported were of black minority ethnic origin.

Additional Support

The CVS Development team is available to support applicants with the process of applying for Grassroots Grants.

Recurring issues for development include:

Governance, and presentation of accounts,

As a CVS we aim is to work with groups through the application process to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria, and understand how to describe their project.

Evaluation

The CDF evaluation process continues to be implemented. All grant holders in year two received the CDF survey, with the majority of groups returning their surveys as requested. Year One survey one have been returned, likewise with year two. Survey one is sent out with the conditions of grant, with a return date. Survey two is sent to grant holders just before the end of their project, the process of having this returned is slower, so when necessary telephone surveys have been conducted.

Monitoring

Monitoring is scheduled to take place approximately half way through each project, if relevant information has not already been received.

Groups receiving grants have proved to be very good at sending us photographs, receipts, newsletters, and invitations to various events.

Letters of thanks are received regularly, as well as newspaper cuttings, when the Grant recipients have had publicity.

Again, when necessary, information is collected via the telephone.

Endowment

Our endowment match challenge was reduced for year two and three. Progress in the first half of year two was slow. Areas of success were the Big Give, and our application to the BIG Lottery for a BASIS project. This project was to improve our sustainability, via the use of the internet, as a result we have a part time worker dedicated to using the internet for fundraising activities. More recently we have received support from a local family trust who have donated sufficient funds for us to meet our revised target for year two, and have pledged a similar commitment for year three.