

Partnership meeting, 28th April 2023. Chaired by Marlene Morley. Present: Liam Kirby, Katie Mason, Robin Moss, Lavinia Corrick, Sue Hill, Rob Wicke, Becky Brooks, Helen Adams

DDEN9

Angela Emms, Philanthropy Manager at Quartet Community Foundation; Phil Edmonds, Treasurer of the Somer Valley Rotary Club; and Jenny Cowie, Funding Officer at TNL Community Fund. Before the event started, the contestants had the opportunity to network with the dragons and find out what kind of support was available from their organisations.

Almost seventy votes were counted.

Winning projects based in Radstock include:

Fosseway school – to create a more inclusive and safer playground which will be available for use by those attending holiday clubs, inclusive playschemes and activities in the school grounds.

SWALLOW charity – will purchase a carpentry bench to enable their group to develop their skills and create new items which they can go on to sell at local markets, our cafes and in their online shop.

Writhlington Action Group – want to increase the number of people able to take part in their litter picking sessions, and the money will help cover the cost of adult and junior sized litter pickers, as well as high vis reflective vests, warning markers, and rings to hold litter bags.

Radstock Park Run – who aim to set up a weekly parkrun taking place along the beautiful Greenway between Radstock and Midsomer Norton in order to providing support for the community's health.

Trinity Church school – are going to create a bank of wild flower meadow and a space for planting pollinator friendly plants and trees.

Natural Theatre – will provide a series of free sessions run by their professional performers leading to a performance at the Radstock Festival. The theme of the first piece will be connected to future sustainable power sources.

Radstock In Bloom – are purchasing a solar power source for Southfields community garden, helping them to power moth traps for bio-research, power a projector for talks, and opens up more environment events and classes for the space.

Larch Court Allotments – can begin to create a safe walking surface for the current allotment users and visitors with mobility issues.

P.E.O.P.L.E – are going to create a safe and supported space where people who are lonely, or have mental health difficulties, can grow produce and benefit from the therapeutic nature of gardening.

Youth Connect South West – will purchase equipment and plants for their new gardening project, involving young people from the local area, helping them to learn new skills, and take pride in their work that will be on public display.

Unsuccessful:

Bath Mind Potting Shed, Improving Shed and greenhouse

Ecowild, wild art trail

Somer valley walking festival, supplies

Didn't take part – Small Stuff Baby Bank SOS, due to successful attainment of grants from elsewhere for the project.

The partnership thought we could explore ideas for increasing the audience number next time. It was thought that a den especially for schools could be popular.

LOAN

There may be a problem, as the loan organisation (Key Fund) have now said that they only work in the north and midlands... which is not what we or Local Trust had been told. Local Trust are in the process of working something out with them. Unsure of timescales. Last conversation with RTC was that they haven't completed on the purchase of church yet, so not having the loan yet is ok.

GREEN SPACES

The green spaces team have had a couple of meetings. They first looked at the many options for investing in green spaces and narrowed it down to a handful. The second meeting looked at the handful and came up with a proposal.

The green space behind Swallow café/St Nics community building, has been used for many years for community projects and events. Most recently, the Radstock arts festival has been held there a number of times, and includes performances. Liam has had initial conversations with Sally Bailey Church Warden, and she is interested in improving the area, both for wildlife and for community use.

The space links well with the recent council acquired lands of Waterside valley, and Haydon batch, and is directly beside the historic miners pool.

Part of the development of the space could be to shore up the perimeter, as well as making something more permanent for performance arts. In our second green spaces meeting, the group were especially keen on the idea of an amphitheater. They propose that we spend our green spaces time exploring the workability of this. The Partnership were supportive of this idea.

CHAIR

Local Trust are keen for us to have a Chair of the Partnership who isn't also a CIC director. This is to ensure a healthy separation of powers, especially because the CIC will be handling the Partnership money.

We've as yet to receive an official nomination for chair... but please do speak to Marlene or Robin if you're considering it.

Katie is exploring the idea.

LTO

We're still waiting on a response to our application from Local Trust. Should be any day now – there may be recommendations or requirements for us to fulfill before we can take on the role.

FUNDED PROJECTS

Waiting to hear on news from Mardons regarding whether they have gained CIC status.

Off The Record are progressing with running listening/counselling sessions from Hope House.