

NEW PROGRAMME OF GRANTS

Over the last year the Council has been reviewing the procedure for funding and supporting community groups.

The Council has been operating the same system for a few years now, and thought that it needed to look more closely at how the grant money could make a bigger difference to everyone in Hebden Royd.

It has been noted that there is a tendency to receive repeat applications from the same groups, or the same kinds of events and projects, they all do fantastic work, but Council was concerned that it might be missing some community groups who don't know that we have grants to award. The new system should make it easier for groups to ask for small amounts whilst ensuring that our bigger grants have the greatest possible impact on the community.

Council Officers have been asked to look at the funding awarded over the past 4 years, to see where there are gaps in funding which we want to fill, and what has worked well in the past. The Council wants to make sure its grant money reaches as many residents as possible and improves the quality of life in the whole area.

The grants budget for 2008/9 of £75,000 has been split into three tiers.

Grants **up to £500** will fill in a short 2 page application form and will be fast tracked through to the next available council meeting.

Grants **over £500** will fill in the same form but will be asked to attend a meeting of the newly formed Grants Committee to discuss their application. The committee will then make recommendations to the Council.

Successful groups will be asked to report back to the Council on how the grant made a difference.

As well as these large and small grants, the Council will look to work more closely with some larger community projects through **Partnership Grants**.

Groups who want to be considered for Partnership Grants should get in touch as soon as possible. They will need to send us some sort of plan and budget for their idea and successful groups will have support from the Council and it's officers for up to 3 years, they will also need to have a member of Council attend their committee meetings to ensure that the project is running well and the grant is effective. We will ask them to provide a full report every year to publicise their work with us"

Please find enclosed an application form and associated information which explains the system in greater detail in order to assist you should you wish to submit a request for funding. I look forward to hearing from you.



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Working for our Community

